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SCENES AND OCCURRENCES

IN

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a

ALBANY

AND CAFFER-LAND,

SOUTH AFRICA.

Lo! where in triumph on his boundless plain,
The free-born chief of Lybia loves to reign;
With fires proportioned to his native sky,
Strength in his arm, and lightning in his eye;
Scours with wild feet his sun-illumin'd zone,
The spear, the lion, and the woods his own.

CAMPBELL.

LONDON:

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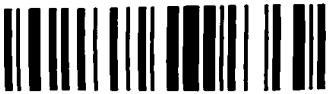
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PREFACE.

After the Cape of Good Hope was ceded to the British empire, a greater interest was naturally excited in regard to it, than had heretofore existed when it was an appendage to a foreign power; and a still greater feeling of attachment must prevail since the period when many British subjects were induced to quit their native land, and proceed as settlers to its distant regions.

Various works have been given to the world, descriptive of the animal and ve-

getable productions of South Africa; the naturalist and the botanist have written scientific details of every thing which can stimulate curiosity in their respective pursuits; therefore the author of the little work now before the public, has merely ventured to relate a narrative of occurrences, which have recently taken place in that part of the country at present inhabited by a British population, and in the territory of the natives in its immediate vicinity. The researches of science are depicted in the publications above alluded to:—in the following pages, the country, as it now appears, is sketched; and however faint the outline may be drawn, the picture is painted as it was seen;—the aid of fiction has never been

called in to decorate it,—every anecdote is fact, and every delineation is Nature.

To the friends and relatives of those who have sought independence and content in these far distant realms, it is presumed that the Scenes and Occurrences in Albany and Caffer-Land, will be peculiarly interesting; and no one who has been in those countries will hesitate to pronounce that they contain a faithful representation of facts, bearing undeniable marks of authenticity, and affording decided proof that the author had seen and felt all that he describes and narrates.

It must also be productive of some gratification to observe, that the native tribes, although in a state very little

beyond that of nature, do not appear to be the sanguinary, vindictive, and ferocious monsters heretofore described and supposed; on the contrary, they seem to be capable of receiving and justly appreciating the blessings of civilization,—to possess kindly feelings, and to be susceptible of gratitude for favors received, as well as deserving of confidence bestowed.

The policy adopted towards them by the Dutch colonists, must strike every reflecting mind to have been erroneous; and that, subsequently pursued by the British conquerors of the settlement, was no doubt instigated by the misrepresentations received from the former, who had driven the Caffers to desperate re-

taliation by their own prior and inhuman aggressions.

The natives of this part of Africa, are a fine race of people, infinitely superior in physical energies and in manly appearance to the other tribes of that quarter of the globe, and possessing mental capabilities which may hereafter render them a flourishing and happy people, when the knowledge and precepts of Christianity, rapidly following in the track of civilization, may have softened their manners, and totally eradicated every savage custom, by giving moral principles, and enforcing legal restraints amongst them. A long time may possibly elapse ere this result can follow; but the influence and example of a civilized nation,

in immediate contact with them, must eventually have this desirable effect.

The transition from a cultivated country, to a land where the plough had never broken the soil, and where no experience had pointed out to the settler the best mode of cultivation, or the grain or garden root best adapted for culture, caused in the first instance much disadvantage and disappointment. Severe distress followed the failure of the crops; but industry and perseverance have already been attended with their usual good effects, and where one species of production fails, another succeeds,—where tillage is useless, sheep and cattle thrive; and ultimately with the assistance of the fostering hand of a paternal government at home,

the British colonists in South Africa, may enjoy every comfort in peace and security.

This narrative is not intended to convey either a statistical or agricultural account of the new settlement; it describes things as they appeared to a traveller, anxious to behold a country but little known, and far distant from his own, —solicitous for amusement, and desirous of information relative to the scenes within his view. He relates events in which he participated; he shews that recreation sometimes supersedes labour; and that social intercourse and hospitality are the characteristics of Britons, wherever they are, or under whatever circumstances they may be placed. The emigrant in Albany gives the most hearty welcome

to his plain repast, and though a vast ocean separates him from his country, the true sincerity and cordial feeling of the land which gave him birth, predominate at his less luxurious board.

There is something of primitive manners and the simplicity of the patriarchal era in the mode in which the sportsman and the tiller of the land are combined. The former meets with no disappointment,—the latter with many. Long has the land been the undisputed possession of the wild and the brute creation, and but lately has it been trodden by the foot of civilized man. It is to be hoped that cultivation may be rendered productive from a more intimate knowledge of the soil and climate, and that the suc-

cess of the husbandman may necessarily diminish the natives of the woods and plains, and render the pursuits of the sportsman more laborious, and less successful, as agricultural produce must increase in the ratio, that the animal race is reduced in number, and driven beyond the boundaries of the inhabited districts.

It is obvious that this narrative is not written for the purpose of obtaining the meed of literary merit. Aiming to attain no height, it can suffer from no fall. It is intended chiefly to convey information to the British public of a land in which many of their countrymen have sought an asylum, and chosen to be voluntary exiles, from the laudable endeavour to enjoy liberty and independence in a

country on which they can at the same time confer a benefit, and which they can thereby render advantageous to the British Empire, by giving it an industrious and civilized population.

These pages will also offer gratifying information to the relatives and connexions of the colonists—the ties of affection between whom neither time nor distance can obliterate. Although far removed, they still cherish recollections of their native fields, and feelingly realize the truth contained in the line of the Latin poet:—

"Cœlum non animum mutant, qui trans mare currunt."

ENTRANCE TO THE KOWIE RIVER

London Published by William Marsh 165 Oxford Street.

SCENES AND OCCURRENCES,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

JOURNEY TO GRAHAM'S TOWN.

HAVING long intended making an excursion into the interior of Caffer Land, and hearing of others of my countrymen who were going on the same expedition, I resolved to join the party. Accordingly, we embarked at Cape Town, in the commencement of the Cape summer of 1825, and after a tedious passage of ten days, came to anchor in Algoa Bay.

This bay, which is embraced by an extensive sweep of coast, affords secure anchorage during six months of the year for ships of every burthen; for the greater part of the remaining six months, the violence of the S. E. winds blowing directly

on the shore, renders it, like other roadsteads of the southern coast, rather hazardous. It is, however, asserted, that if vessels frequenting it are provided with good cables, the danger is not so great as has been generally apprehended; and for the purpose of landing or shipping goods, and conveying passengers, there is an establishment of surf-boats provided and constantly in readiness at Port Elizabeth.

After being landed, which was speedily accomplished, our first visit was made to the government house, where the officer in command received us with great politeness, and rendered us the desired assistance in procuring a waggon, &c. to enable us to proceed on our journey; and as we were not pressed for time, we resolved to take the road round through Uitenhage. Our vehicle, we were told, generally travelled at the rate of three miles and a half per hour; we therefore commenced our journey on foot, taking with us our guns and dogs.

Two miles distant from the bay, we were surprised at meeting a coach and four horses, which

we learned belonged to Mr. Korsten, a merchant, whose large mansion, built in the Dutch style, we soon after passed.

It was so late when we set off from the bay, that we determined to pass the night at Bethelsdorp, a missionary establishment. We reached this place by moonlight; and just as we were about to pitch our tent, the missionary sent to beg we would take our tea with him, and make use of his vestry-room as an apartment for the night; an offer we readily accepted.

In the morning we visited the chapel, which is an excellent building, as well as several shops and dwelling houses built by Hottentots; the thatching is really handsome; but the land was barren in the extreme, and the whole view by no means pleasing.

We sent on our waggon from hence to wait for us at the Zwartkops river, resolving to amuse ourselves in searching for game. We shot several birds of beautiful plumage, turtle doves which are very good eating, and rabbits. These latter are much larger than the European

rabbit; the color is like our tame brown, with a thick head, and the tail and back of a reddish cast; the meat is white and very delicate. The hares are various, but all bearing a resemblance to our own; they generally keep in the bush, and seldom trust to their swiftness, although they occasionally afford excellent sport. We flushed and killed a brace of what are called Cape pheasants, but by no means resembling the English pheasant; they have something of the grouse flavor, with red legs, and are good eating.

Some Hottentots passed us, riding on oxen, which they manage by running the bridle through the cartilage of the nose, and thus render these noble animals perfectly tractable. We saw several pools of water perfectly white, and crossed a tract of land covered with aloes, called likewise the chandelier plant. The guides brought us to the place appointed to meet our waggons, and after crossing the Zwartkops (Blackhead) river, we arrived at Uitenhage, and drove to the top of the village, intending there to prepare our tent; but meeting with a friend, formerly an officer in the dragoons,

he insisted on our returning to his house, where we were very agreeably entertained.

Uitenhage is situated on a large plain, plentifully watered, and nearly surrounded on two sides by high naked hills. Colonel Cuyler the landdrost, has a large mansion built in the Dutch fashion, with a valuable farm, a few miles distant. Before we had been in bed many hours, we had reason to be grateful to our host; rain was descending in torrents, which continued through the whole of the following day; but, in defiance of the elements, we contrived to pass it most cheerfully, and were entertained with many sporting anecdotes, and derived much useful information relative to our projected tour. The next morning was still unfavorable; but about noon it cleared, and with much regret we took leave of our friend, who had entertained us with great kindness and hospitality.

We commenced our journey slowly; the ground was so saturated, that the oxen could not travel at their usual pace, but this enabled us to pursue our sports, and in one of our rambles

we came to a Dutch farm-house, with a fine garden, containing oranges in profusion, and a running stream which waters it all over. We found that the boor and his wife were unluckily gone to another farm, and had left their Hottentots in charge. We amused ourselves in endeavoring to converse, and in shewing them our pocket books, knives, &c. The spying-glass delighted them beyond measure, and produced peals of laughter, particularly from the women; one snatched it away, and called to an old man to come and look, who by his manner appeared as if he had seen one before, and called it *far looker*. We overtook the waggon at the Coega rivulet, and as the moon shone with brilliancy, we were induced to continue our route till twelve o'clock.

We saw several harte-beasts, one of the largest species of deer, with very handsome horns; and the pride of the plain, the spring buck: the latter, which are extremely timid, are about the size of the common deer, and of the same color, with a white stripe on each side, and a black stripe along the back, which they have the power of closing and expanding.

They take their name from the amazing springs which they make over paths, rocks, or any thing that obstructs their way; and it is done in a singularly graceful manner, the head bowed, the legs hanging, and the body curved, so that the animal appears as if suspended in the air; the fleetest greyhound only, can overtake them. It is very amusing to see their contemptuous treatment of all other pursuers; they allow them to come near, then give a bound and a snort, and trot off to a little distance, when they expand the hair on their backs, and appear quite white. They are very destructive to the corn, and are seen on farms in numerous herds.

The partridges abound, and we killed a few brace; they live in long grass or rushes, and suffer you to approach very near, when they often rise singly, and with good dogs a covey is soon annihilated; they are fine eating, with much of the game flavor, and are larger than the European, but with the exception of the horse-shoe mark, resemble them. There are two kinds, the red and grey wing, the former most plentiful.

Our tent was soon pitched, a fire kindled, and the Hottentots prepared an excellent repast which we partook of with very keen appetites.

The sun called us early, and we were soon in readiness to depart for our next stage, which was to be the Sunday river post. Our road lay principally through bush,* which grows very thick near the post. They kill here great numbers of the leopard or panther, and many of the skins were hanging up to dry: these animals are very destructive to the sheep, and very difficult to be taken in traps or with spring guns, as they will not touch any dead bait, and are so wary that it is impossible to kill them by watching.

We crossed the Sunday river, which is very shallow, with a channel so broad that fancy may conceive it to have been formed by the passage of the waters of the deluge off the land.

We had heard much of the enchanting pros-

* A term used by the inhabitants, and very appropriate, for it is neither timber nor brushwood, but a growth peculiar to this country.

pect from Addo's height, which we now began to ascend; the road winds through bushes of evergreen, many in full bloom; the waggon which occasionally deviates from its track, crushes the branches, and the most aromatic odour scents the air. When we reached the summit the view was magnificent. Algoa bay constitutes a principal feature in the scene, with ships in the distance lying at anchor. Running quite inland were seen those naked mountains which form a belt almost the whole way from Cape Town. Surrounding us on every side were fine undulating hills, the summit here and there covered with shrubs or verdant grass, and numerous herds of deer were dispersed about. The whole scene is captivating; the grass had been lately burnt, but rain had fallen, and it was a complete grass-plot. I had loitered so long, admiring this view, that I had considerable difficulty in overtaking my companions.

The bush, as we proceeded further on, was more broken, and formed into complete shrubberies; always circular, the more lofty in the centre. It is difficult to persuade one's-self that they are natural, the whole appears kept in

such perfect order, owing it is probable to the browsing of the deer and other animals.

The whole country continued so beautiful, as to render it almost impossible to give an adequate idea of its varied charms; the road smoother than any gravelled walk, being of a strong sandy texture; veins of stone are occasionally found across the road. Clumps of shrubs with various shades of green, some blooming, others seeding, geraniums with various creepers ascending the stems, then falling gracefully down the branches, the beautiful plumage of the birds dazzling in the sun's rays, a bush buck darting now and then from one shrubbery to another, altogether form the most enchanting scenery imagination can depict.

When we reflect that all this is nature, that no human being ever tilled the ground, or altered the face of it since the creation of the world, the mind is filled with an association of ideas, interesting and sublime.

Was every faltering tongue of man,
Almighty Father! silent in thy praise,
Thy works themselves would raise a general voice,

Even in the depth of solitary woods,
By human foot untrod, proclaim thy power,
And to the choir celestial Thee resound
The eternal cause, support and end of all!—

THOMSON.

Between nine and ten o'clock we pitched our tent on Quagga-flat, close to bush and water; the cattle were tied up round the waggon, to prevent them from straying in the night, but our rest was occasionally disturbed, with the cries of wild animals. The jackall is first heard approaching, making a sound like a puppy when beaten. In the middle of the night, the hyena prowls about in quest of prey, making rather a dismal moan, but on the dogs barking or the least noise they make off more frightened than the pursuer; although the hyena has immense power, yet this animal is remarkable for cowardice.

We resumed our route at sunrise. The day was extremely hot, and we were not sorry when the waggon reached Routenbach's Drift where we breakfasted; then crossed the Bushman's River, the fording place of which was so deep as nearly to reach the axle-tree of the waggon;

and in the middle of the day *outspanned** in company with a Dutch boor and his family who were travelling up the country.

The party consisted of the old boor, his wife, two sons, and a daughter; they had two waggons, and had travelled three hundred miles. The boor immediately advanced towards us, saying "kan gy Hollandsch sprecken, myn heer?" We scarcely knew enough of the language to make ourselves understood, but were well pleased at finding, that one of the sons could talk "*much English*," having resided for some time at Graham's town.

One of the waggons was filled with turkeys, geese, ducks, fowls, orange and fruit trees of various descriptions, all to be exchanged for articles of clothing, tea, sugar, and any other little necessaries that may be required. In fact all they sell is immediately laid out in this manner,—money the source of all evil, having no value in their pastoral life. Distance to them is no consideration; the boor puts his *vrouw* and

* Unyoked.

kinders into the waggon, lights his pipe, and sets off to travel five hundred miles, with as much ease as we should ten in England.

We were particularly struck with the appearance of the noble oxen that drew their waggons. The farmers pride themselves on their cattle being well matched, as to color and form. Several Devon bulls have been imported and some black from Holland; these are called, as well as their produce, Vaderland, or Fatherland, and are certainly the best formed. The native cattle have extremely long branching horns, and long legs, and are not so valuable as the crossed: the difference was very striking between them, and the boor shewed me with great satisfaction twelve black oxen, that drew the waggon he travelled in, all of the cross breed, for which he had given forty pounds.

The waggon is a long narrow vehicle, and not calculated to carry a very great weight; it is however well adapted to the country, for although the roads are excellent, the deep water gullies, in some parts almost perpendicular, would soon snap the wheels and the

pole in sunder, if there was not very good play. It is covered with a tilt of rush matting, and over that, canvass.

A Dutchman never seems in a hurry, he carries his mutton, dried beef, and bread, with his blanket, in a large chest, on which he sits to drive, and with his pipe jogs on contentedly, now and then calling out "Trae, Trae."—His little Hottentot leader joins him, if there are other waggons before him, and only gets down to lead them down the hill; or, if they gallop off, as soon as he gets hold of the reins which are attached to the two first oxen, he leads them zig zag, or throws mud or dust at them, crying out in a sharp shrill tone till they stop. His whip measures thirty-five feet, which he seldom uses, but when he does, it is with effect, cutting with ease even the foremost of the *spann*;* it is then laid along the top of the waggon. He has besides a smaller one which he calls his good doctor; it is made of the skin of the buffalo, or the hippopotamus; this is applied at a short pull, and whether it is owing to the whip or

* Team.

the nature of the animal, they are wonderfully tractable; and although one hundred might be let out to graze together, that never before met, they are never known to fight.

The young farmers amused themselves with rustic games; their ruddy complexions and dress even, reminded us of such scenes at our country fairs; they are tall and athletic, and were dressed in a round blue or white jacket, with tanned yellow sheep's skin pantaloons, very slight shoes, and no stockings.

When it was time to depart, the two sons proposed that they should accompany us in our sporting excursion, and that we should all agree to outspann at Assagai Bush, a proposal we very readily acceded to. They eagerly examined our guns; the bore is the first thing they look at, and if they can put in no more than three fingers, scarcely deem them worth further notice. His gun or *roer*, as the Dutchman calls it, is his never failing accompaniment, and it furnishes them with bucks in some places in great abundance; he never shoots at small game, seldom even at partridges or pheasants.

We promised ourselves a very considerable share of sport, in this addition to our party, and were not without hopes of destroying some of the animals that had disturbed our night's rest. Our first victim was a *muis-hond*,* a destructive little animal of the weasel species, and very numerous; also an exceedingly curious bird, for which we could not discover a name; it is rather less than a sparrow, and we were told lives on flies; the eye, beak, and legs, are of a very beautiful cerulean blue, which fades soon after the bird dies.

While resting for a short time near a rivulet, (a blessing rarely to be met with in this country, and when found, the water is not always free from a brackish taste,) one of the boors espied a Guana, and immediately chased and killed it. This animal is esteemed very good eating, but its hideous form renders it very uninviting; it feeds upon crabs and snails, and its long tongue seems formed for drawing its prey out of holes. Geese, but particularly ducks, dread it, and

* Mouse-hound.

carefully survey a pond before they venture to swim.

We killed a few brace of partridges, and a peewit, or as it is called here, a *keewit;* in moonlight nights they are constantly crying on the wing, and they are the harbingers of sunrise.

We were now approaching our destination, and with a considerable feeling of disappointment at not having encountered any of the wild game, which our companions as well as ourselves, had eagerly anticipated; but just as we were passing a gloomy and intricate part of the thicket, one of the dogs made a steady point, we prepared, and moved forward, when up rose an immense leopard. The person in advance fired, but his musket was only loaded with slug shot, and the monster made off and climbed with difficulty a tree. A second shot missed;—he then crouched, shook his tail, and was in the act of springing, when we immediately retired; he then jumped down, and the boor instantly fired, but only wounded him. He growled tremendously;—the dogs attacked him

and forced him up another tree,—the boor took a favorable position, fired, and the animal fell, mortally wounded.

It was very large, and the skin was beautifully marked. The Dutch call them tigers, but we were informed that there is no tiger in the colony, and this certainly was a leopard. This last exploit completed our day's amusement, and we reached Assagai Bush, much fatigued.

The heat of the day had been unusually great, and towards evening the lightning began to play. For two hours the whole horizon to the westward presented a constant blaze; between the clouds there appeared at times streams of liquid fire flowing towards the earth, but not in that angry manner that the forked lightning does in Europe. Thunder at last followed, with two such tremendous peals, that I can only compare them to the discharge of a thousand rockets, closely followed by a whole volley of artillery; it was not confined to a cloud, but seemed to roll along the vast canopy of heaven. A heavy shower of rain succeeded, which was of short duration, and the moon again shone forth at intervals.

The waggons had all outspanned; the boors were quietly taking their favorite beverage, tea-water, as they call it, and their Hottentots were seated round the fire. Our sporting companions joined us, and partook of our supper. One of the Hottentots placed himself at the entrance of the tent, and sung several Caffer songs, accompanied by a curious stringed instrument, called a *gorrah;* he applied his breath to the strings, and produced some wild and pleasing notes; then occasionally recited some words, which the boor interpreted as a call for the chiefs of the different Caffer tribes to assemble at particular places, either for war or hunting.

We were roused at an hourly hour with the preparations for departure; the boor and his party were going to Bathurst, across the Kowie river, and ourselves to Graham's town. The old boor told his son, the "much Englishman," to invite us to his house, if on our return we should visit his part of the country, and we should be welcome as brothers;—the honest-hearted old man repeated the sentence, laying his hand on his heart,—"als myn broeder." His

vrouw presented us with an ostrich egg,—the sons bade us a reluctant farewell, and indeed we separated with mutual feelings of regret.

They style themselves Africaners, and distinguish all those who come from even any part of Europe, as *Vaderland volk*, or Father-land people. They are distant and reserved, and at first their approach appears cold; they do not give the hearty shake of a Briton, but simply grasp each others hands, and touch their hats, universally. The son with whom we could converse was a very intelligent young man, and from him we obtained some useful hints as well as very entertaining anecdotes.

We outspanned near a boor's farm, and were hospitably invited to the house, and regaled with some very excellent rich milk, and dried hung beef; we then amused ourselves with walking over the farm and looking at the cattle, sheep, and goats. A farmer here never dreams of inclosures; his cattle and sheep are herded by day, and brought home to a *kraal** at night,

* Pen or court.

fenced in by the thorny *mimosa;* and here exposed to the wet they lie without fodder till the herdsman resumes his care.

The snails are immense;—we found one to weigh alive in the shell four ounces. Our caterpillar, fly, and bee, are common, but I observed the wasp was not striped, nor are they numerous. The field mouse is large and very prettily streaked. The secretary bird is held in very high estimation, and a penalty of five pounds enforced for destroying them; they frequent ploughed ground, and are majestic looking birds when walking; they destroy all kinds of vermin, but particularly snakes.

The farmer had got the skin of a puff adder which had lately killed a very favorite dog of his. The animal was standing by his side when the adder bit him; it did not seem much affected for five minutes, but then grew faint, moaned, and swelling to a great degree, died in twenty-five minutes. The puff adder takes its name from its contracting itself and blowing when surprised or attacked; they seldom exceed three feet in length.

Snakes are numerous, but keep in high grass, thick wood, and old holes. The only fatally venomous, are the green snake, the night adder, which roams about in search of prey, and the *cobra capella;* the latter is more rare.

Several skins of wild animals were hanging up; one was pointed out as the skin of a wolf, but was in reality that of the hyæna. This is a wonderfully powerful but cowardly animal, attacking in the night every thing that will not defend itself;—calves, foals, and even horses, are frequently destroyed by them:—hoofs, pieces of leather, and the most putrid carcases, are the luxuries of this monster. It prowls about the houses at night, and the moment it approaches, the dogs commence a most dismal howling, conscious of their inferior strength. This animal weighed two hundred pounds.

Our day was fast waning, and we were very desirous of reaching Graham's Town in good time; the road was stony, and the country not so picturesque. Some Hottentots passed us with a young quagga, which they had just succeeded in catching for a gentleman in the

neighbourhood. The Hottentots gallop after a herd, separate the young one, which they drive into the bush, then dismount, and take hold of it round the neck, till the herd have disappeared; they then mount their horses, and the little animal follows without being fastened or led: they have not strength to be made serviceable. The quagga is a species of zebra; striped like it on the neck, but it also resembles the ass; we passed some herds of them, fifty or sixty together.

We at length reached Graham's Town, the head quarters of the military on the frontier.

CHAPTER II.

ANECDOTES OF VARIOUS TRIBES.

HERE, it may naturally be supposed, we were desirous of a longer halt. A new scene had opened to our view; and of a kind, differing from any the preceding part of our journey had presented. We had mixed with the animal creation, we had witnessed modes of enjoyment in rude boorish life.—We were now to congregate again in more refined society,—to join in scenes of civilization, with beings of our own fatherland; to mark the rapid progress which improvement makes, under the skilful and industrious hands of an English population; to see the spot, which only a few years since bore the aspect of a rude village, containing about twenty houses, now become a considerable town, with many handsome buildings, shops, &c. and exhibiting all the marks of a busy, flourishing place.

This district of the Cape, now called by the English, *Albany*, by the Dutch, *Zureveldt*,* was very long, a bone of contention between the Dutch and Caffers. The last formidable attack made by the latter, to obtain possession, took place in the year 1819, when a serjeant of the Hottentot corps, returning one evening from patrole, fell in with a small party of Caffers; one of them called to the Hottentot, and in good Dutch, said, that to-morrow when the sun was at such a height, pointing to the eastward, they would be in Graham's Town, and would shew him what fair fighting was: this, when reported, was not treated seriously; but very fortunately, an inspection had been previously ordered for that particular day.

The Caffers, true to the hour of their appointment, about nine thousand in number, covered the hills which encompass the town, but it was some time before they could be brought within reach of the guns; the carnage at length began, as well as their retreat; many hundreds lay dead, and several were found in the woods.

* From its sour grass, in contra-distinction to other districts that have a sweetish flavored grass, eatable only at certain periods of the year.

The armed boors were at an outpost, and did not arrive in sufficient time to cut off their retreat, which would have terminated the business. They were followed across the Great Fish river; and ultimately the whole country between the Keiskamma and the former river was taken possession of by the English, and the Keiskamma is now the boundary.

The weapon used by the Caffer is the *assagai* or lance, a long spear with a sharp iron point edged on both sides, which they throw with unerring aim, sixty, seventy, and even one hundred yards. On this incursion they had also a few muskets, which they had taken from an advanced post, having surprised and murdered the guard.

To this state of warfare and enmity between the colonists and Caffers, which has too long subsisted, has succeeded a more peaceable and friendly feeling; and to promote this object as much as may be done, the governing powers have encouraged the establishment of monthly fairs, where these untutored natives are enabled to dispose of such vendible commodities as they

possess, for the beads, buttons, and baubles given in exchange by the English. By these means, and a treatment in the true spirit of justice and reciprocity, it is hoped and believed that a good understanding will be more effectually maintained, than by all the terrors of the cannon and the bayonet. This state of matters must ever be desired by the colonists, and they look with confidence, from the high and estimable character of the new Lieutenant-Governor-General Bourke, who is to reside among them, that every thing in his power will be done to promote this benevolent purpose, and preserve peace and harmony with the neighbouring tribes.

We made it our study to collect every particular relating to the Caffers and more distant tribes, and were favoured with many highly interesting anecdotes.

Some months after the first arrival of the English, they were thrown into considerable alarm by the appearance of five thousand Caffers on the hills. Preparations were instantly made for defence, when one of their interpreters came down and made known that

they were friendly chiefs and their men, come with a pass from the commandant, with leave to procure some red ochre or chalk, which they mix with grease, and then anoint their hair and bodies with it.

This friendly intercourse was for a time interrupted by some of their marauding parties; but latterly peace seems established, and the fairs will no doubt have the effect of producing a certain degree of civilization.

They bring in ivory, hides, gum, elephants' tusks, mats and baskets, to a very considerable amount. We saw two enormous tusks purchased from them, which weighed ninety-eight pounds each. The Caffers are described as a very noble-looking race, tall, finely proportioned, and possessing great muscular strength. They display infinite sagacity, and evince an evident superiority over the common race of savages. The rush baskets made by the women are extremely ingenious; they are so firm and closely made, that they will hold liquids, and are always used by the Caffers as milking buckets. They have as yet no estimation for European

clothing ;. and, as an instance, at one of the late fairs there were some common shawls taken in exchange; a woman gave some baskets for one, but she had no sooner got possession than she tore it in pieces, giving her companions each a part to put their beads in. They are very particular in their choice of beads and buttons, taking care always to bite them, and if they break they are immediately rejected.

The Caffer chiefs were permitted to come in to pay their respects to his Excellency Lord Charles Somerset, on his last visit to the frontier, February, 1825, when some interesting scenes took place, which were related to us by a friend who was present. They had an old building allotted them, and provisions given them. Our friend described them, on his first interview, as all sitting crowded together, covered with an old blanket, or their own bullock's hide made supple: the former they greatly prize.

Emmo is an old man, with a fine placid countenance. *Botman*, a tall bold fellow, and a jolly dog, was the first to come out of the

circle to shake hands, calling to *Enno* to do the same. *Cobus Congo*, a good quiet little creature, was born of a *subject* wife, consequently could not inherit, and he had very quietly resigned the chieftainship to *Pato*, when the latter came of age. *Cobus* was dressed in European clothing. *Pato*, born of a Tambookie wife, is a good-humoured fellow.

The chiefs were accompanied by a very fine young man, an attendant or counsellor. His hair was dressed in their highest fashion. The women prepare it with the red clay so highly valued by them, and cover the head with red beads about the size of a pea. *Macomo*, is a little sharp merry dog, but, from some unknown cause, he did not choose to come forward. *Gaika*, the principal chief, sent his excuses. *T'Sambie*, who is very old and rather of a suspicious nature, declined the invitation. Several other minor chiefs were allowed to come into the town, and go where they pleased. Each party had a Hottentot interpreter. Their surprise was very great at seeing the shops, which they eagerly expressed to each other. They are great beggars, and

every visit ended with, "*Baseila, Baseila.*"* These they uniformly received, and, after admiring them, gave them to attendants, who put them in little bags made of animals' skins.

In one house they visited, there was a fine Dutch painting of a winter scene and skaiting, which they examined with the minutest attention, and desired the clearest explanation, but the Hottentot interpreter unfortunately could not imagine that water could freeze so hard as to sustain men and horses, consequently the explanation must have been imperfect. Another painting of a Dutch boor drinking, with a pipe in his hand, made them laugh heartily, particularly when told he was taking a *soopie*,† which they themselves dearly love.

The chiefs wore a cloak made of the leopard skin, and a necklace of copper beads, wound round the head, with two, three, or four armlets of the elephant's tusk, according to their age, valour, &c. &c.; the cloak is gracefully thrown over the shoulders; the men wear the cloak in

* Give a present. † Dram.

the same manner but made of the bullock's hide.

The women were in general well grown, and stout. Their dress was becoming: the head dress full and covered with a thousand beads; the outward robe loose, made of the antelope skins, which has a very fine gloss; with three rows of buttons behind, from top to bottom; they walk with a confident air.

A group of women were standing together, when they were asked if either was a Tambookie; as the word was pronounced short, they did not immediately comprehend, but at last pointed to one, who was a remarkably fine woman, but with an indifferent air; and not inclined to advance, she said pointing her finger to her face and nodding, "*there Tambookie ba-za-lia:*" when the string of beads was given to her she seemed pleased, and gave her hand with a smile. Upon her husband asking for another *soopie* she entreated him not to take more, and he reluctantly went away with her.

The men are also cautious about their wives

drinking; they only allowed the glass to be half filled with wine when they were offered any, and the women generally refused.

A singular circumstance occurred in the year 1823, at a period when the Colony was much disturbed by the Caffers. A boor walking on his farm in the district of Graaff Reynet, thought he saw four Caffers and immediately fired; one of them fell dead, the others stood around him, and made no attempt to escape; the boor advanced, but with caution: it was however needless, as the poor creatures were motionless with the noise of the gun, and to them, the unaccountable fall of their companion; the boor soon discovered by their features that they were not Caffers; they were armed with *assagais* different from the Caffer make. He induced them to follow him to his house, where they remained till he got permission to lodge them in the Graham's Town prison. Immediately on their arrival our friend with a party, hastened to visit them, and detailed to us the following very interesting account.

A young Caffer found marauding, had been

lodged there a few days previous, and as soon as the gentlemen entered, he joined their party. The three strangers were mixed amongst the different prisoners, Hottentots, Dutch, and British; the elder stranger appeared a man between sixty and seventy years of age, with a small tufted white beard; he was seated, making pliant a piece of dried hide, in order to make shoes after the manner of the Hottentots, the latter seated round him eagerly employed in teaching him. The second, a young man about twenty-five, was making a shoe, and the youngest a lad of about nineteen, a son of the old man, was learning Dutch from a Hottentot, and laughing loudly at his own pronunciation.

The countenances of each expressed so much, that the anxiety to discover their country and every thing relating to them was intense, but at that time little could be known; and at the present period all that can be ascertained is, that they belonged to the *Ceuta* tribe, a very formidable, but very distant nation. Their dress was composed of hides, made as pliant by rubbing as cloth; it covered them entirely

with the exception of the shoulders and legs, and was tastefully mounted around them. Their heads were ornamented with a profusion of red and white beads in bands, and on the top a small tuft of part of the tail, apparently of the jackall. The old man had in addition several cowrie shells attached to the beads, and two pair of copper ear-rings, one set round the other, with long points; his countenance was mild but grave, with a smile peculiarly sweet, and he exhibited a very striking contrast to the lively laughing younger ones, whose hearts seemed overflowing with delight at every notice or present made to them:—their eyes were full and lively, the nose rather flat, and the lips thick, altogether different from the Caffer, who never quitted the gentlemen.

The countenance of the Caffer is more regular, but his eye is keen, and he looks, at times, like what he is, sly and clever. The strangers were darker than the Caffer; their language differed, but still bore such an affinity, that a good deal might be understood.

The tribes to the north-east, were separately named to the old man, but to all he shook his head, and frequently repeated, "*Souta, souta**" pronouncing it particularly soft. When the Tambookie tribe was named, the officious Caffer interfered with great vivacity, and taking hold of our friend's arm, intreated that he might explain; and pointing to the sun, with action and look, made them comprehend that the Tambookie tribe lived in such a quarter; and that these people, pointing to the north-east, came from Ceuta, very very far off; he was asked in Dutch how many moons off; upon which he raised his arms, and made seven motions, like the pendulum of a clock; meaning, that it would take seven moons, or months, to get there. Upon this assertion the old man spoke to the Caffer, in their language, and declared it only to be six moons.

One of the officers enquired if they were armed when taken; and, on the *assagais* being produced, the Caffer again came forward, and described the clumsy manner with which they

* Ceutà.

threw it; and then gave a specimen of his own skill in using it,—snapping his fingers, to express the rapidity with which he could make it fly. The old man replied mildly, and apparently rebuked him; but the Caffer only laughed in derision. He called himself a *squatzond*, and took pains to make the English pronounce it properly; then taking them up to the old man, made him shew three rows of iron beads, which were strung upon thongs, and suspended round his waist, somewhat in the style of the three-tailed bashaw, the Caffer all the while turning it into ridicule.

We were at a loss to ascertain the meaning of *squatzond*, when a Hottentot woman, who knew something of the Caffer language, explained that he was what the Dutch call *heemraad*, an adviser or counseller of the king. This situation seemed well adapted for him: his countenance expressed much thought, judgment and acuteness, and none of the traits of savage authority.

The constable, in order to annoy the Caffer, and to prevent him from laughing at the stran-

gers, whom he held in sovereign contempt, (although in the first instance he shewed considerable fear, and persisted that they were cannibals, and would eat him,) told the Caffer that they were good men, but that he was a *schelm*.* The Caffer flew into a violent passion, and said he was no *schelm*:—that a *schelm* was a man that ought to be strangled, pointing to his throat, for that he eat men; and taking up a bit of hide he tore it with his teeth, in order to shew by action what he meant. Such was the savage's interpretation of a scoundrel!

They were all placed in a row, in order that one of the visitors, who was near six foot, should measure with the old man; the latter was taller by half an inch, which the son observed with great expression of delight. They had some tobacco given them; and one of the party had by accident, some of superior quality, which they immediately remarked, and for which the old man returned a gracious smile, the son an extended grin, and the other leaped with joy, rubbing one hand over the other,

* Scoundrel.

imitating the action of grinding it with stones, and then pretending to take it as snuff. But not contented with laughing and nodding his head, he came close up to him, and said in Hottentot Dutch, which he had just learned, "*dat is mooy, mynheer;*"* and then appeared as much delighted at his skill in the language.

The Caffer was not forgotten; he received the tobacco eagerly; but with inexpressed satisfaction in his countenance, he folded his arms in his mantle, and moved along the room with all the dignity of the Peruvian chief, uttering in an under tone "*baas,*" the Dutch for master.

All that could be understood from them was, that they belonged to a tribe hitherto unknown to Europeans; they never saw a white man before, but they must have had intercourse with other tribes, who live nearer the coast, and who may probably trade with the Portuguese about Mozambique. They have cattle, sheep, and fowls in their country; but tobacco was the grand object; and it is conjectured

* That is good, sir.

that they were sent out to endeavour to open a trade. They gave every indication of being a mild and intelligent race; and from their dress and ornaments it would appear were more advanced in civilization, than the neighbouring tribes.

Public attention is now more particularly directed to a distant horde, the Mantatees, who are making irruptions into the lands of the other tribes. The accounts regarding them are so various, that it is impossible yet to obtain any authentic particulars The Tambookies have been defeated by them, and have been thrown into considerable alarm, as well as several others, many of whom have fled for shelter to the colonial territory; and government have thought it expedient to introduce a certain number into the English settlement where they are distributed about in families, taking care not to separate them, and in that manner hired as servants.

The Bechuanas are described as a very interesting people, mild in their manners, naturally good humoured, with cheerful dispositions,

readily conforming to the European habits, and very willingly exchanging their skins for the English dress. They are a remarkably tall handsome people, with very black skin. They appear extremely grateful for any kindness shewn them, and readily attach themselves. They describe the manner in which the enemy attacked them, in a very expressive manner: and when they pronounce the name of one of the chiefs, they always shudder; he generally came at night killing as many of them as he could, while asleep, and taking the rest prisoners. The names of some of the women have a melodious sound.

CHAPTER III.

EXCURSION THROUGH ALBANY.

THE country round Graham's Town is extremely beautiful; the place itself is situated in an extensive valley, tolerably watered. The road extends for some distance along this valley, which is surrounded by high hills, adorned with the mimosa thorn, and every variety of flowering shrubs.

We here experienced the utmost kindness and hospitality from various friends in the town and neighbourhood; and every possible attention from the commandant, Colonel Somerset, and the landdrost, Major Dundas.

The great interest the whole scene created made us desirous of extending our tour through the colony; and having an invitation to join a

large party of pleasure to the Great Fish river, we readily agreed to postpone our journey into Caffer land, for the purpose of accompanying them. The day fixed for our excursion was peculiarly favorable; but this heavenly climate is at all times calculated to heighten the enjoyments of these interesting expeditions. The glass is seldom up to eighty-four, and if it is, the heat is not overpowering; there is always a fine invigorating air which blows from the sea, and induces to exercise. But it must be allowed that the sun is a furnace, when exposed to it, and sheltered from the wind.

It very rarely occurs that the wind blows from the north, but when it does, it comes scorchingly hot over the interior sandy deserts, blasting and withering every growing thing within its influence. Poisonous however as are its effects, the antidote soon follows; as the day advances, the clouds collect, the thunder is heard, the glass rises perhaps to one hundred degrees, when a copious shower of rain falls, and the heated atmosphere recovers its wonted freshness; all the while the lightning plays about the hemisphere in fantastic shapes, with-

out doing any injury. This wind may be said to resemble the sirocco.

The dews fall towards morning, and are never prejudicial to health. Sleeping out in the open air without any additional covering, is here a very common occurrence, and no bad consequences arise from it. The sun sets on the longest day, twenty-first December, a little after seven o'clock, and on the shortest day about five o'clock; there is very little twilight.

The waggons were sent on at an early hour, with tents, marquees, provisions, wines, &c. &c. The place appointed for the rendezvous was at the junction of the Kap and Great Fish rivers. The approach is exceedingly fine between the hills, the descent rather steep; the tide was in, and the two rivers full up to their beds; a novel sight to us, for all the *great* rivers we had hitherto crossed were dry in part, with only deep pools here and there.

Our tents were pitched in a superb amphitheatre, encompassed with lofty hills, covered

with trees full of the most luxuriant foliage, spreading a gloom over surrounding objects, and heightening the whole effect. The Hottentots had prepared our repast, and when it was ended, all the party retired to rest, for the evening was far advanced when we arrived.

The balmy fragrance of the air, the mild beams of the moon, and the romantic solitude of the spot, induced me to wander for a time, and contemplate the wildness of the scene. The stillness of the night was occasionally broken by the cries of wild animals. The hyena and jackall were familiar sounds, but the hippopotamus and bush buck strange and unusual. The noble teams of oxen were fastened to the waggons; the numerous Hottentots lay asleep around the blazing fires; one stood alternately on the watch, from time to time replenishing the flame: and as the moon shone upon the tents, I could have pictured to myself such scenes as Homer drew, for it was in such a state that Rhesus and his host were found and destroyed before the gates of Troy. Absorbed in these reflections, I fell unconsciously asleep, and did not awake till the sun had appeared in all his glory.

As soon as our breakfast was ended we prepared for our excursion to the Great Fish river mouth, an object of great curiosity to us, and hoping to meet with some of the "Behemoths of the deep," we took with us our guns and dogs. As we approach the mouth, the river becomes of considerable width; the banks are muddy; but the tide never falls more than five feet, consequently the channel here is always full. The prospect is magnificent; the water perfectly transparent, flowing amidst verdant hills, shaded by lofty ever-greens, and the whole view terminated by the southern ocean, roaring with its never ceasing surf! Nature has erected an insurmountable barrier, and prevented the possibility of any communication. A bar of sand runs about six hundred yards in a direct line across the entrance to the river, and leaves only a space of thirty yards for the water to issue out. On this bar, which is broad and hard, we walked securely. The surf breaks tremendously along this rocky coast, throwing up trees and branches, and presenting the appearance of the wreck of a fleet.

> Amidst the rocks he hears a hollow roar
> Of murmuring surges breaking on the shore,

Nor peaceful port was there, nor winding bay
To shield the vessel from a rolling sea,— .
But cliffs and craggy shores, a dreadful sight,
All rough with rocks, with foamy billows white.

Looking up the river, the scene is calm and unruffled, and assumes the appearance of a lake, with an island of sand in the centre, covered with a great variety of aquatic birds.—This appearance however must undergo great changes in certain seasons of the year, for the rain when descending in torrents from the mountains, must of necessity overspread the whole extent of channel, and produce the effect of carrying along by its force, some portion of the sand which contributes to narrow its mouth, and without which removal the entrance would necessarily become entirely blocked up. It is evidently a part of the dispensation of Providence in regard to this portion of Africa, that whatever other blessings it may be gifted with, the boast and glory of other more favored countries, noble navigable rivers and secure harbours, are denied.

I lingered for some time in admiration of this grand and awful scene, while preparations were making to draw the net. Some of the

party went in search of the hippopotamus, and others were occupied in collecting shells. The fish caught here are principally of the mullet species, and are good eating. The best is the springer, so called from his frequently springing many yards out of the water. Young soles are occasionally taken—a proof that larger ones are to be met with beyond the bar, but as yet no one has ventured out to try. Razor fish, muscles, and the cuttle or ink fish, are numerous.

When the seine was first brought to shore, it appeared well filled, but the heavy load proved to be four young sharks; better luck however attended the next trial, and we succeeded in getting many of the choicest fish, as well as a torpedo, which afforded some amusement; although it was not a very active one, we were electrified in turn, but the effect on each of us was different,—some felt it through the whole frame, others in one or two joints. Gulls, sand larks, spoon bills, and cormorants, were constantly flying about us.

When the day was fast waning, we began to retrace our steps, and fell in with the party

who had been making an unsuccessful effort to discover the hippopotamus. The evening passed merrily, and the hills were made to echo with our songs.

The following morning it was arranged that we should make an excursion up the Kap. No shrubberies can be formed with greater art than those on the banks of this delightful little river, on which are to be seen a profusion of flowers and berries of the brightest and most varied colors. The gaudy and singular strelitzia regina grows here in greater luxuriance than we had ever yet seen it; and on the craggy hills, the chandelier aloe expands its radiant branches.

A few hundred yards up the river we were locked in on either side by overhanging rocks, and trees of the richest foliage. Our boat disturbed many of the *das* or coney that ran along the rocks. This little creature is of a dark color, like a rat, and seems to be of a species between the rabbit and the guinea pig; it is esteemed good eating, and the flesh is white, but from its paws resembling those of a cat, it is not inviting.

Two miles farther we came to a shoal, and satisfied ourselves that our voyage must end here; and we resolved on returning to a beautiful spot that we had selected for taking our repast, and where we amused ourselves with exploring every part; we had no paths but those formed by the baboons. At the end of one we discovered a rude but very ingenious scaffolding made by the Hottentots to obtain honey from the hive. The rock overhung its base so much that very great labour and skill were required, and risk incurred, in fixing and tying with strips of bark the poles and branches of trees. Their reward may literally be said to be sweet.—The manner of finding it is very singular, as related to us by one of our party who had accompanied a Hottentot in search of some. The Hottentot went to a place that he thought likely to contain the hives, and immediately whistled with a sort of call that the honey bird or *indicator* is accustomed to, when the little feathered attendant made its appearance, chirping loudly and hovering about them; it then flew forward, still chirping and watching to see if they followed. It tried twice to lead them across a *kloof*, flying back and again

forward to entice them to follow; they however not liking to go that way, and the Hottentot continuing to whistle the call, the bird at length flew back, and led another way, still watching and chirping to them to follow him, which they now did, and very soon it hovered over a place in the rock, where on searching, they found a hive full of honey; the bird immediately perched in a bush over them, and waited patiently till they had taken the honey, when it flew down, and took possession of the nest, and eat what was left for it.

The honey bird is rather larger than a sparrow, with brown feathers. The quantity of honey taken every year is immense, and its flavour is very delicious. The bees seldom or never sting if they are not hurt. The Hottentot is very particular in his manner of leaving the honey for the bird, as he says that it will then remember him and lead him another time in preference to any other person. When the bird has eaten the honey, the young bees are carefully closed up with stones to prevent the *ratel**

* A kind of badger.

from taking them out, and as there are always a quantity of flowers, the bees never want nourishment.

The rocks impeded our further progress, and we sat among them some time enjoying the sylvan scene. We were agreeably surprised with the sound of flutes, which some of our party had brought with them, and for the first time probably this wilderness and its inhabitants were serenaded. A discharge of muskets, the appointed signal, brought all the party together, when we sat down to dinner, and immediately afterwards got into our boats. We kept along shore, and, in a little nook where a stream of water ran down, to our great joy a hippopotamus suddenly lifted up its head close to us, and soon after a young one, and then a still younger. We lay upon our oars enjoying the sight for near half an hour; they cannot remain long under water, or rather did not then: we were near enough to distinguish every part of their heads; they have the power of closing their nostrils, and when they come up for air, they make a hissing noise in distending them, and shake their ears. As this

element does not furnish the animal with food of any kind, there seems no apparent cause for its going into the water but for rest and refreshment. When this family party had retired, we returned to our encampment, where another agreeable evening terminated the day's amusement.

We resolved the following morning to pay another visit to the Fish river mouth, and on our road saw certain indications of an elephant being in the neighbourhood. A large tree, a Euphorbia, at least thirty feet high, had been just torn up by the roots, and lay across the path, we therefore kept close to the banks of the river, and avoided as much as possible the bush. The elephant crosses the deepest rivers if not too broad; he walks on until out of his depth, then plunges, and with his hind feet strikes the bottom and springs forward, then plunges again, until he gets across.

One of our party had just returned from a visit to a friend residing between the Bushman and Sunday rivers, and he gave me a very interesting detail of his excursion. The day he

arrived there, one of the Hottentots belonging to the farm had killed, single handed, two elephants and a buffalo. The following morning two Hottentot women called and begged permission to accompany their husbands in the waggon to bring home the flesh of the buffalo: this suggested to the gentlemen the idea of going also, and they set off, walking unarmed, by the side of the waggon. When they got to the bush the waggoner gave notice that he would tie up the oxen, and then go in and cut away a path to draw the animal out.

All the party went into the bush, the Hottentots first with their large guns, then their wives, and the gentlemen following. The first Hottentot frequently spoke to his companions in a low voice, and was heard to say "look, look;" on enquiring the cause he pointed out to them the fresh track of an elephant. The bush became thicker, and the sun had no power to shine through the thick foliage; they passed the spot which the Hottentot marked out as the place where he had wounded the first elephant, and soon afterwards they saw the dead buffalo. The party went on resolving to see the dead

elephant, and winding along through the bush till they came to a sand hill; the Hottentots pointed out one of the carcases at some distance, lying on another sand hill, but on looking at it for a second it appeared to move, and the Hottentot discovered that it was a young calf by the side of the cow. The whole party immediately went on, and when within musket shot they found that they were two calves lying by their dead mother;—a piteous and interesting sight!—The young ones rose, and some dogs that the Hottentots had incautiously taken into the bush, barked violently. At this moment the bushes moved, and the stupendous father stalked in; he looked around him quietly and even sorrowfully, and after viewing the party for a second, he walked on and was soon hid behind some trees.

The situation they had placed themselves in, had now become extremely critical; the bush was continuous for miles in extent, and where to fly in case of an attack was very difficult to determine. They were all warned not to run against the wind; and the direction of the house was pointed out as well as circumstances

would allow; but while they were debating the matter, the dogs ran in among the young elephants; they set up a deafening yell, and made directly towards the party, some of whom lay down by the path, with the hope of seizing the smallest calf, but they were very glad to make their escape, as they discovered it to be larger than they expected. The bull elephant, called back by the cry of his young, again appeared, but totally different in aspect, and even in form. His walk was quicker, his eye fierce, his trunk elevated, and his head appeared three times the size. My friend called to the Hottentot to look; and he immediately replied in broken English, "Yes, Mynheer, dat is de elephant will make mens dead!" The alarm was extreme; but while the animal stood hesitating, the cry of the young sounded from a distant quarter, and the enraged father took the shortest cut towards them, crushing the branches as he stalked along; and the party thus most providentially escaped. It was ascertained that the elephant had made off towards the sea.

They went up to the dead elephant, merely to examine it; for the Hottentots leave the tusks

till the flesh becomes softened, as it would take up too much time to separate them. One of these men took out his knife, and cut a circular piece off the head, about an inch deep; he then pointed out a dark spot, similar to what is called the kernel in beef; this he probed with his knife, and brought out a small part of a *twig;* but it was broken. He distributed a little piece as a great favor, then carefully wrapt the remainder up, as they have an idea, that whoever wears it, can never be killed by an elephant; and this valuable charm was transferred by my friend to me. It is remarkable that no naturalist has ever noticed this circumstance. There is no outward appearance, and it is impossible to imagine how it becomes enclosed, or of what use it is to the animal.

The party were now anxious to get away speedily from the bush; and the leader of the Hottentots brought them to the other elephant that he had killed, which also proved to be a female. She had been fatally wounded by the first shot, and had fallen against a tree, which supported her almost as erect as if alive.

The Hottentots are wonderfully bold marksmen; they steal along naked, and never fire till they almost touch the animal, as they pride themselves upon knowing the vulnerable parts. They finally reached the buffalo, cut down some intervening bush, took the oxen in, and dragged it out.

Our attention was now excited by the report of a gun, and directly after, another; we hastened forward, and found an immense vulture lying dead, that our companions had just shot. It measured six feet between the tips of the wings; it had been attracted by the carcase of a dead hippopotamus, which we soon after passed, but which was not in a state to allow of our stopping to examine it. The flesh is considered good eating, and a whip called the *sambok* is made from the skin, and in general use on horseback. It gives a very severe cut, so much so, that a master is forbidden to strike his servant with it, under a heavy penalty.

The dogs gave chace to, and killed an *orabi*, a very pretty kind of buck, smaller than any

we had seen; and soon after they started five roebucks, one of which we shot; they are covered with a very soft fur, resembling that of rabbits. We killed a brace of pheasants, and several partridges.

We soon reached the mouth of the Fish river, where we resolved to amuse ourselves in exploring every part. It was suggested that we should go along the sands to see some rocks, for a rock on this sand-girt coast is an interesting object; and the tide being out, favored our wishes. A walk of an hour brought us to them, and we were amply repaid for our labour. They were composed of sandstone, like the usual strata in this country, and the operation of sea water on it (which is very particularly described by Paley) is very remarkable. The sea had gradually perforated the softest part of its base, so that it very much overtopped, but had left a platform on which we walked round, over shoals of muscles. Above us were several sea birds' nests; and towering over all on the sea side, the appearance was that of the frozed ornaments of a cathedral, surmounted by a perfect cross. The waves and surf continually

falling on the sandstone, causes this formation, and when struck with a stone it sounded like metal.

While we were minutely examining every part of this fanciful structure, our attention was drawn to a party of Hottentots, that were employed in collecting shells to burn for lime, which they sell at Graham's Town. My companions immediately went up and accosted the old man, whom they call Boezak, a Hottentot leader. The countenance of this old man exhibited the most striking marks of an original character; he had a piercing eye, and a look of so much intrepidity that I could not but feel anxious to know something of his history. I learned that he was a man of singularly abstemious habits, seldom or never being induced to take any thing but tea-water. His *roer** was his constant companion, day and night; and a curious characteristic anecdote is related of him, during the time the Caffers infested the country.

Boezak and his brothers were walking toge-

* Gun.

ther, and were approaching some bush, when Boezak suddenly put his gun to his shoulder; the brothers looked round, but could not see any thing. Boezak kept pointing towards the bush, and very cautiously advancing; in this position he remained many minutes, and then became stationary; his companions were in vain looking for the cause. At the moment that he drew the trigger, an assagai hovered in the air, and a Caffer fell dead from the tree. Boezak's piercing eye had espied the Caffer lying on a branch of the tree, the exact color of his own skin; he pointed his piece at him, in hopes the Caffer would surrender; and also afraid of firing, lest there should be a body of them in the bush. Boezak kept his eye steadily fixed, and the moment he saw the Caffer prepare to throw his assagai, he lodged the bullet in his heart.

"The lowing herds" returning home, reminded us that we had some distance to go, and putting ourselves into the waggons, we arrived very long after the sun had sunk below the horizon.

CHAPTER IV.

A RURAL FETE.

We were this morning to bid adieu to our enchanting retreat. One of the gentlemen that had accompanied us from Graham's Town had engaged the party to dine on his grounds, some distance from the Kleine-Mondjes, and had volunteered to be our guide to Bathurst, Kowie river, &c. &c. The tents were struck, and our waggons in readiness at an early hour. Still travelling through the same beautiful country, we reached the Kleine-Mondjes, two singular rivers, if rivers they can be called, for they more resemble two broad lakes,* the waters being choked by the sand, before they reach the sea. They wind gracefully as if assisted by art, the waters serene and unruffled, and gently in-

* One is now called the Lyndock; the other the Wellington.

creasing as the tide advances through subterraneous passages; the banks slope gradually, which is an unusual circumstance in this country. The prospect is very delightfully varied with fine undulating hills, richly wooded, and terminating with the ocean. We collected shells, and various colored sea-weed.

Quitting these rivers, we got upon the plain, where a spring buck afforded us some excellent sport; when darting from the bush, a ball was lodged in its body, after which it was pursued by the dogs for nearly a mile, but at length dropt quite dead. It is astonishing how far they will run after receiving their death wound. The venison we found rather insipid and dry, but it made a good stew: this buck weighed fifty pounds. Morning and evening is the proper time for getting at these animals. The game in this country affords amusement for every hour in the twenty-four; winged and footed game all day, and wild beasts all night.

We were fortunate in procuring some good horses for this excursion; but generally speaking, the colony cannot boast of a great many

good ones; they resemble the cossack, small with long tails. The boors teach them a curious sort of amble; this and a gallop are the only paces they know. The boor when once mounted, never stops until he gets to his journey's end. The horse will bear a great deal of fatigue, keeping up an ambling pace for twenty miles. Their feet are never shod, excepting those belonging to the military, and they frequently have shoes only on the fore feet. The roads are universally composed of hard sand, and the stone soon falls to pieces, being of the same nature. Horses are subject to a disorder, which in some parts of this country, in the autumn, carries off immense numbers. Some believe it to be owing to a peculiar grass, others to the effect of the morning dew; as it is alleged that those that are regularly kept under cover at night, are never affected. This colony has been generally free from it for some years, and horses are sent up from the interior, to avoid it. Diseased, or broken-winded horses, are seldom or never known here; barley, is considered preferable to oats, for feeding them. As soon as a visitor arrives, he dismounts, his horse is unsaddled, a thong made of a bullock's

hide, called a *riem* is tied round his neck, and fastened to his fore leg; he is then turned out with others to graze all night; in the morning he is looked for, and saddled again; but he often strays, and is lost for weeks.

After a very delightful ride of some miles, we reached our destination, and, having disposed of our horses, walked up to join the party, who were already waiting for us in the wood. Our path led along a deep valley, by the side of a winding stream, its rocky banks studded with flowers of every description, for it is in such places they are most luxuriant, imbibing the little moisture they require from the stones. The plains were covered with a plant very much resembling the myrtle in leaf, height, and blossom, bearing a small apple, that has a very delightful spicy flavor. The effect was extremely beautiful; some of the fruit being red, others yellow. Interspersed with this was an amaryllis, growing in the most extraordinary profusion, the plants in some places crowded together so as to impede each other's growth: it has several flowers on a single stem, and

its two flat leaves, rise after the flower has faded.

Soon after entering the wood, disjointed masses of rock and stone, washed down by the mountain torrent, intercepted our progress. Here occasionally a deep hollow or *kloof* was formed, where the forest trees receiving shelter from the sun, and moisture for their roots, grow to a large size. Various creepers were entwined round the trees, forming an entire arbour,—the monkey rope, the wild vine, with its grapes, ascending the branches, wild figs, geraniums, &c. &c. The wild fig is a fruit much esteemed by the natives; it is in shape like a fig, but the inside rather resembles the strawberry, both in taste and appearance: the leaf is very thick and juicy, and is used by the Hottentots as a sovereign remedy for bruises, &c., and they take it for many complaints. Wild plum trees are in great abundance, also bilberries, raspberries, and blackberries.

Ascending the rugged path we reached a natural formed tower, from whence are seen

gigantic trees, whose tallest branches could not reach within a hundred yards of us; and overlooking the steep below, the rocky chasm is filled with luxuriant evergreens, and the euphorbia shooting its naked branches through the green foliage. When this tree is cut down, the milky juice exudes in great quantities, and it is said to be one of the ingredients with which the Bushmen poison their arrows. No sound, save the rippling of a distant waterfall, was heard.

Here the country opens to the view with all its varied charms,—rich clumps of trees dispersed about, clusters of the gay *mimosa*, with its little fringed balls of yellow blossom, gilded by a bright sun;—the soft tints of the distant mountains relieved by the beautiful azure of an African sky, formed a striking contrast to the wild scene around us.

We now descended the perilous path, and approaching nearly the extremity of the wood, we entered through an aperture, upon a considerable space of ground encompassed with thick brushwood, and terminated on one side by a

large deep chasm in the rock, filled with water, issuing from a height of forty feet, and falling abruptly into the basin.

The scene now before us was of a most picturesque as well as animating nature. The company were all assembled; the tables were arranged in a fanciful manner, and decorated with flowers of every hue:—pieces of the fallen rock, and broken branches of trees, formed benches, and in this manner we sat down to a luxurious repast. A cask of wine was fastened to the rock by garlands of evergreens, and though the "regal purple juice" flowed at pleasure, its votaries only took sufficient to recruit their spirits after the fatigues of the day.

The dazzling plumage of the birds continually attracted the attention; and I particularly remarked two sprews of a dark though glossy green, that when they met the sun's rays were of exquisite beauty: they had a nest on a ledge of rock hanging over the lake, with young ones in it, and regardless of our presence from time to time darted down to feed them.

The dwarf coral tree presented a most brilliant appearance, with numerous birds clinging to its branches. The sugar bird, of a dark green, hangs pendant by its legs, and never leaves the tree till the flowers fade. The lori is also attracted to it.—There are great varieties of the king-fisher, and the woodpeckers have very beautiful plumage. The nests of many are really wonderful structures; almost all are pendant to the extremities of branches, frequently over pools of water: twenty and thirty are seen together, tremulously waving with every breath of air; and they have all long tubes, or some similar protection, to guard them from monkies or snakes. Paroquets frequent the woods in flocks, as the wild fruits ripen in their different seasons, and perch in the noble *coralodendrum* tree. The taylor bird when making its nest, hangs from the tree; the female supplies him with long grass, with which he actually sews the nest, inserting his beak as a needle, and pulling it out again till his thread is used; he then rests himself on the nest till he gets further supply. A species of lark builds in deep grass, neatly platting it as an arbour over him.

Two very singular birds, the Caffer finch, and mouse bird, (the latter so called from being of the color of a mouse,) have two very beautiful marks on their wings; the rest of the plumage dark grey. At the commencement of spring their tails begin to grow, and get to such a length as to appear to be an absolute incumbrance; but in the winter the feathers fall, and they look like other birds.

Nature has very wisely apportioned her favors, and denies perfection to one country alone. With so much to charm the eye in the feathered tribe, in vain you listen for harmonious sounds! When you enter the woods all is gloom and solitude. Sometimes you are startled by a single whistle, which proceeds from a bird that builds in the branches, a sound the Caffers exactly imitate, so that with the exception of the Cape canary, which sings like a linnet, there is not one that can continue a song. Some few surprise us occasionally with a similarity of note to the European, but it ends there, and the listener waits in vain for a continuation. Fancy might lead one to imagine they were learning to sing,

or had been to Europe, and only recollected a part of what they had heard.

The dinner ended,—we quitted this romantic scene, and re-assembled in a temporary room, erected for the occasion in a round clump of bush. The centre had been cleared out; posts were erected in the form of a marquee; the sides covered with matting; the roofs with canvass, impenetrable to sun or rain: round this room were festooned wreaths of evergreens and flowers, so exquisitely formed by nature for the purpose, that the whole appeared the work of art. Interspersed among these wreaths were stuffed birds of every plumage; the little sugar bird, as we had seen it in the day clinging to the bright scarlet flower of the coral trée, had a most natural and beautiful effect.

Upon the branches of a tree that had been enclosed under the canopy, lay the timid helpless camelion. I have seen two varieties of this little animal in the colony, but they both appear smaller than those I have seen in Europe. The body of this was three inches long, with a

tail of the same length; its head is hideously ugly, and its eye most remarkable. The orb protrudes very much, and is covered with the same skin and color as the rest of the body. At the extremity of this orb the pupil appears smaller than the smallest pin's head. It is gifted with the power of moving this in every direction, and when one eye is looking forward, the other can be directed towards the tail. The feet open like hands without thumbs, so as to grasp the boughs, and the tip of the tail is generally turned round a twig. It moves with the most extreme caution, never letting loose its hold until the advanced foot is secured. Its food is the common fly. When about three inches from the object, it begins to make preparations by a motion within its mouth; it then deliberately throws out its long blunt tongue, and never fails seizing upon its victim. Its changing color is very wonderful: black, white, grey, and iron color, are the most common, and probably its most natural color, as it is always on boughs of trees, and they most resemble the bark. It changes quickest when it grasps the object, and this power of changing is very evidently designed for its protection.

Every creature is armed with some power of defence, but this poor timid little being, exposed on the boughs of trees to get its food, has neither sting, nor tooth, nor swiftness, and the only chance of escaping its enemies is its similarity to the object it rests on. Its slow and cautious motion too, is well adapted for stealing towards its winged prey. I cannot recollect any other quadruped whose sole food can escape from it by flight.

When night drew in, this gay parterre was brilliantly lighted up, and dancing commenced, and was kept up with spirit till day-light appeared.

Two officers of the party were going on to an advanced post some distance up the ceded country, and it was proposed that we should accompany them a short ride over the Fish river. We were off early in order to cross at Caffer-drift before the tide rose, but they entertained us with such numerous anecdotes of their lion hunting, &c. that we loitered imperceptibly, and did not arrive till the tide was coming in. We led our horses down the rugged descent.

Some soldiers were occupied in endeavouring to form a good road. As soon as we reached the bottom of the hill, the road lay along the river, which was concealed from us by a thick shrubbery of geraniums, Cape jessamines, palma Christi, and a profusion of flowering trees growing in rich luxuriance from their sheltered situations. On our left, in the cavity of a lofty rock, we discovered a vulture feeding its young ones.

We now reached the ford. The officers ordered a Hottentot on a pack bullock to lead the way. The tide had got so high that we judged it expedient to take off our boots and stockings. The ox, from being well accustomed, took the water with ease, and we followed. When half way over we found the tide flowing up so rapid that our horses could with difficulty stem the current. Our directions were to keep their heads always down the river, and not to go to the left of some large stones. This was no very easy matter, and the sensation we all felt was that they were standing still. We belaboured their sides, and in the exertion one of my boots floated off over the line of the ford, and was immediately drawn into a whirlpool,

which I had been informed in the course of my ride, had sometimes proved fatal to travellers unacquainted with the circumstance. We, however, got safe over, and the officer having accommodated me with a pair of shoes, we pursued our route.

We were now in the country ceded at the last peace, and began to ascend an almost perpendicular hill, entirely enveloped in thick bush, spreading a deep gloom, and totally excluding the bright sunshine. With frequent halting we at length reached the summit, and there unsaddled our horses for an hour, to let them feed whilst we reposed on the grass. We saw several fresh tracks of elephants, but were not fortunate enough to see the animal.

After an hour's cantering we reached a village called Fredericksburg, in compliment to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, but it was now deserted. The situation was well chosen and very beautiful, with a fine river meandering, and almost insulating the ground on which the village stood. Here we took our dinner,

and immediately after walked to a spot celebrated for having been the scene of a very tragic adventure in an elephant hunt. One of our companions (an officer) was present on the occasion.

A party having pursued and fired several times at an enormous male elephant, the animal became enraged with the wounds inflicted on him, and made a furious attack. He fixed his eye on a poor fellow who stood at a little distance, whilst the rest of the party ran up a hill. The elephant, unable to pursue that track, chased the unfortunate man, and, in making a short turn round the bush, broke his own leg. This accident, however, did not stop his pursuit. Instead of running the elephant now made enormous strides. The party on the hill saw the utter impossibility of the man's escape. His utmost speed appeared as nothing compared with the enemy's gigantic movements. In a few seconds he overtook the object of his pursuit, twisted him in his trunk, and trampled him to death! then raising the body from the ground, threw it into a tree. The elephant

now returned towards the bush, apparently suffering much from the wounds he had received.

The female came out to meet him, and endeavoured, by placing her shoulder under him, to enable him to walk off. Another shot, however, brought him down, and his mate left him. One of the party then fired at her, but only with small shot, which made no impression. It had the effect, however, of encreasing her rage, and she pursued the officer who fired. He fled, believing death inevitable, and fell at the moment the elephant reached him. As he lay flat on the ground, the animal did not use her trunk, but darted at him with her tusk, (fortunately she had but one). She missed her aim and tore up the ground within an inch of his shoulder. At the instant she was about to trample on him, an intrepid young highlander advanced within a few paces, fired, and mortally wounded the elephant, who quitted her prey, rushed into the bushes, and died. The stupendous male elephant measured eighteen feet in height.

We were very highly gratified with our ride, bade adieu to our military friends, and returned to the ford, time enough to cross over at low tide; but did not reach our destination till between twelve and one o'clock.

CHAPTER V.

THE KOWIE RIVER.

NOTWITHSTANDING the exertions of the previous day, we were up at an early hour, roused with the intelligence that the dogs had tracked a maned wolf, not far from the house. It had got into a hole, and after some little labor and difficulty was dug out in our presence. This animal is a species of hyena, and exceedingly destructive to the sheep, killing more than it devours. After this exploit, we returned to enjoy our breakfast.

Furniture here, I am told, is generally made from the *sneeze** wood, which admits of a very high polish; this and the yellow-wood tree, is the only wood I have seen used for that purpose, all other timber is either too hard or too

* So called from occasioning sneezing, when sawed.

soft. Breakfast ended, we commenced preparations for our excursion, and soon were in readiness to proceed. The ride to Bathurst lay through naturally formed pleasure grounds; at every turn of the road we expected, in vain, to see a mansion,—deer of various kinds, springing and running in every direction; we also saw fourteen ostriches together, but not within musket shot.

Little more than an hour brought us to Bathurst, and a more beautiful spot cannot be imagined. It stands on two undulating hills, extremely fertile, with a few detached houses, surrounded by gardens, and presenting the appearance of English villas. They have been built in a part intersected with bush, and have a very picturesque effect. Fronting them, towards the south, the view is bounded by the ocean, and overlooking a deep glen of richly luxuriant verdure.

Bathurst was once designed for the capital of the district; and a more appropriate one in point of situation could not have been fixed on, though Graham's Town is more central.

A handsome Drosdy house and a considerable number of private dwellings had been erected. The plan however was suddenly abandoned, to the great injury of several individuals, who subsequently pulled down many of the houses they had built, and sold the materials. The large public building is now converted into a school.

It was also, we were informed, the intention to have built a church at Bathurst. The want of places of worship is an evil very seriously deplored by the English, and they appear earnestly to hope that immediate attention will be paid to this subject. The entrance to Bathurst from the Kowie, as well as Graham's Town, is very beautiful. With an excellent road, without stone or rut, and travelling through the same delightful scenery, we reached Port Frances.

On the whole of this coast, bordering on the new settlement of Albany, there is only one port and harbour which can be approached by vessels of any class, viz. Port Frances, situated at the entrance of the Kowie river;—and such unfortunately is the difficulty as well as

danger, at times, both of entering and departing, that it has operated to some extent in discouraging trade with it. Nevertheless, vessels of fifty or sixty tons occasionally enter and discharge;* and one trader has been regularly established to sail between that port and Cape Town. This intercourse proves an advantage of the greatest importance to the district, thereby affording the means of a more expeditious and economical transit for such merchandize as the demands of the colonists may require.

A custom house and a few dwelling houses have been erected at Port Frances, the situation of which is beautiful and picturesque. The basin formed by the Kowie, is capacious, and perfectly safe; and vessels may discharge on the banks from their decks; and it is believed that if four or five thousand pounds were expended in the erection of a pier or such other sea defence as may be practicable, the entrance over the bar might be so improved as to give facility to a great increase of trade; and this advantage would be still further, and most materially in-

* In one instance, a vessel of one hundred and twenty tons, entered, unloaded, and got away safely.

creased, if to it were added the privilege of a direct intercourse with the mother country, as well as to foreign places,* instead of the present indirect one of receiving all the commodities wanted for consumption through the medium of Cape Town, by which an expence of double freight, insurance, and charge, exclusive of the merchant's profit, is made to fall upon the colonists. When it happens, (as occasionally occurs,) that vessels cannot enter the Kowie with safety, they are unloaded in the road, and the goods conveyed into the harbour by boats.

From the Fish river mouth to the Kowie, the country is very rich and beautiful, in a belt of about two miles in breadth from the sea, from which it is separated by high sand hills, covered towards the land with bush, and the most luxuriant herbage;—no intervening rocks, rugged and bare, are visible as on the other side of the belt, and which we are told increase in frightfulness and sterility more inland. Strata of these naked and sand-stone rocks, yearly mouldering away, are seen running east and west;

* This privilege has been since conferred on Port Frances.

they have a very romantic effect,—but the proprietors of the land on which they are situated, would be very glad to exchange their ornamental appearance for the more solid advantage of a fertile soil.

Wherever the land has been ploughed within this belt, sea shells are turned up in the most perfect state of preservation.

We had engaged to pass this and the following day with a friend resident at Port Frances, and made a point of seeing every thing worth notice in this highly interesting and improving place.

We were this morning to bid adieu to our hospitable friends, and to cross the Kowie river in their boat. Beautiful as the scenery had been, with very few exceptions, throughout the settlement, the country through which we now travelled exceeded in fertility, softness, and luxuriance, all the preceding. Our road lay through an extensive plain, forming one grand and noble park, bounded towards the south by gently swelling hills, ornamented with clumps

and groves. From some of these the view is magnificent: on one side, the unbounded ocean,—to the land, the Bushman River hills, the Graham's Town hills, Bathurst, and the beautiful country to the Kowie mouth.

Keeping this road we reached the old military post (Lynch's), situated on a hill, commanding one of the most romantic and enchanting prospects that nature ever formed. At the extremity of a rich and extensive meadow, stood a picturesque cottage:—in the front of it a luxuriant grove. Behind the house, and from every side, this *prairie* was encompassed by lofty verdant hills, with the Riet Fontein flowing along the valley, full up to the margin, broad, and covered with bush, sedge, and reeds. The hills were intersected with flowering shrubs; the valley with lofty trees; among which the *coralodendrum* was seen to greater advantage than we had before remarked, for this tree is in general concealed in deep *kloofs*. The lustre of the noonday sun shining on the landscape, gave an effect of coloring such as I never before recollect to have seen surpassed. We were to pass a day here to enjoy some shooting, and were told that game abounded.

The fertility of the soil promises favorably for agriculture. The Indian corn grows here in great abundance, and the cotton plant thrives well. Large flocks of sheep were scattered upon the hills, and some hundred head of cattle were grazing in the meadows.

The beautiful rivulet, so much the object of our admiration, terminates in a lake, and we were told, in the great droughts which sometimes occur, this lake disappears, sinking under the sand hills, and appearing again quite fresh upon the beach.

The prospect continued to vary every five minutes. The hills as we approached them appeared to be variegated with extensive forests of evergreens: the moisture from the sea encourages the growth, and the sun travelling round by the north, has not power to dry it up.

The garden was situated upon the banks of the rivulet, and, like all those we had already seen, blooming with every choice flower, rich in fruits of every description, and full of the finest vegetables. The Cape gooseberry grows

in great abundance, and has a very pleasing acidity. The walks were shaded by the Indian corn, and a very beautiful shrub called the Caffer coffee, which bears a small berry resembling coffee. The young sprouts, when dried and split, will allow of platting; they make a very good sun hat, but inferior to the straw.

We passed a very agreeable day with our friends, who had assembled a considerable party. By sunrise we were equipped for our shooting excursion,—the dogs and guns in high order; and before the day was over, we had destroyed pheasants, partridges, orabees, riet bucks, bush bucks, and gries bucks, and several birds of a splendid plumage. In walking along the beach we picked up a variety of delicate shells:—among the number, the *nautilus*, in a very perfect state.

The following day we paid a visit to the missionary establishment, at Theopolis. These institutions must eventually be of advantage to the Hottentot race. At them they are taught several of the mechanical trades, and learn to speak, read, and write English. At the time

we entered the room there were one hundred and eighty children present at their lessons: they have monitors from among them, and are taught upon the Lancasterian system. For the adults there is a Sunday school, which we understood was well attended.

These establishments are regarded by the Hottentots as retreats from bondage; for there they are not compelled to labour, except for subsistence, nor are they obliged to go out to service, if they do not like it. The wild Hottentot drinks, smokes, and swears, as well as an European,—and the missionaries appointed to these establishments, should endeavour to instruct their flock in the arts of civilized life,—and, laying a foundation of industry and morality, would thus more rationally and firmly uphold the grand superstructure of religion. Since the able and intelligent Dr. Philip undertook the superintendence of these missions, great improvement is said to have taken place.

The Hottentots it appears are very superstitious; a friend related an anecdote to that effect of the Hottentot that accompanied us on

our shooting-excursion.—At the period that the Caffers overran the country in 1824, he was standing with the Hottentot near the bush; the latter complained of being overcome with drowsiness; and begged our friend would remove with him from the bush, for the Caffers had caused it, and if he should fall asleep, they would immediately come and kill him. The Hottentot was asked, why they were not both affected in the same manner? he replied, that the Caffers could not cause that effect upon an Englishman. We visited many beautiful places in the course of our ride, and returned to pass the night with our agreeable and friendly guide.

This day terminated our excursion through the British settlement; and with inexpressible feelings of emotion and regret, we were now to separate, to bid adieu to friends, who had received us with that cordial welcome, so gratifying to the heart of a Briton;—who had entertained us with unbounded hospitality; and for whose future welfare and prosperity we all felt more than common interest. We were accompanied to the banks of the Kowie, by a

numerous cavalcade. The boat was in readiness, and, unable to express more than a hasty farewell, we hurried into the boat, which carried us speedily across, and we were soon on our road to Graham's Town. As we reached the beautiful valley, that winds for some distance into the town, the setting sun illumined on the landscape, spreading a crimson glow over the distant hills;—the luxuriant groves, the romantic scenery, and exquisite softness of the air, harmonized agreeably with our feelings; and, riding slowly on, we at length reached Graham's Town.

I have heard it remarked, that the scenery of this country, presents too much sameness; and it may be true to a certain extent,—but this must always be the case with a country in a state of nature. It is art after all, that enriches the landscape: the modest cottage, the ruined castle,—all add to the beauty of rustic scenery. Here there is nothing of the kind to arrest the eye, and without striking objects, you may tire in looking over bold mountains, undulating hills, and Nature's parks and shrubberries; but the superficial observer must

reflect, that this is a country in progress;—nature has drawn the outline, and art must finish the picture. The climate is certainly the finest in the world; the cold in winter we are told is sufficiently keen to render a cheerful blazing fire agreeable, unaccompanied with a humid atmosphere; frosts are frequent, though never severe, and at that time the brooks are visited by wild ducks, snipes, &c. &c.

To the lovers of natural history this country affords an inexhaustible source of information and amusement. Flora may here be said to keep her court, surrounded by all the gayest and most distinguished of her variegated train. The beautiful *coralodendrum* grows tall and stately, as the finest oak, and is one of the very few deciduous trees to be seen in the woods. This tree, at the approach of Spring, throws out large clusters of deep scarlet flowers, issuing from a dark brown velvet pod. The whole of its branches are covered, and present the most brilliant appearance. The gay and gaudy *strelitzia regina* grows in great profusion: the seed is eaten by the Hottentots before it is ripe, and we have made a meal of them for want

of better refreshment, when engaged in shooting. The geranium and the *ixia cinnamonia* are considered garden weeds. I have seen very beautiful hedges formed of the ivy-leafed geranium, round the gardens, and it is also eaten as sorrel. The *ixia* is one of the very few flowers which throw out any scent. It is proverbial in Africa that there is wind without clouds, flowers without scent, and birds without song.

The common garden flowers of England are, however, highly prized in the colony, and cultivated with peculiar care, no doubt from the pleasing recollections they convey. The *palma christi* grows in wild luxuriance, but the stalk is red, and it has not that beautiful bloom which we have seen it exhibit in England. It is perennial here, as is the *chili*, which is very highly ornamental in the garden, bearing at the same time red pods and green flowers, &c. Indeed this is usual with the trees, and frequently are seen blossoms, ripe and half ripe apples, and cherries on the same stock. The willow, a species of mimosa, and the *coralodendrum*, are all of the deciduous kind we have yet remarked.

CHAPTER VI.

JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR.

HAVING made all the necessary arrangements, and procured every thing that we should require, we resolved to proceed immediately on our journey into the interior. We were attended by some Hottentots, who had two led horses with our baggage, and by an interpreter, Jan Tzatzoë, a Caffer, but who had been brought up in the colony at the missionary establishment of Bethelsdorp, and subsequently Theopolis. His father is captain of a kraal under Gaika, and was prevailed upon by the late Dr. Vanderkemp to allow his son to be educated by him. He has lived about twenty years in the colony; often, however, going to visit his father. He has been brought up as a carpenter, and has made himself useful at Theopolis as an assistant, and occasionally preach-

ing to the Hottentots. Not having any precise plan for our route, we had resolved, in the first instance, to go by way of Somerset, which, on the Governor's last visit to the frontier, had been formed into a district by taking large portions from the districts of Graaff Reynet, and Albany.

The day was so extremely hot that we delayed setting off till sunset. We then mounted our horses, and passed the night near a good pool of water; turned our horses out to graze, and soon got our tea-water boiled, notwithstanding a lack of dry wood. In selecting a proper place to spend the night, we had overlooked this necessary article, and resolved to be more cautious in future. Tea is the universal beverage here. The Hottentot prefers it almost to brandy or tobacco. The natives and Europeans drink it all times. I never was particularly fond of it in Europe, but to be deprived of it here would be insupportable. In short, the play upon the line "Te veniente die, Te decedente canebo," is truly applicable in Africa.

The next morning we were up before day-

break, and went in pursuit of our horses. Observing a blazing fire a few hundred yards from us, we approached, and found two boors, with two Hottentot servants, lying round it smoking their pipes. They had rode from the source of the Sunday river, and when they failed in finding houses, they bivouacked in this manner, a good great coat their only additional covering for the night. They were perfect strangers to the country, and had many questions to ask.

As soon as day appeared, we found our horses. They had fared badly, having little or no grass, and could only browse on the bushes. About two miles on our road we passed the first boor's place: five or six scattered huts on a naked stony spot, without enclosure of any kind, presented a most dreary aspect, but this was enlivened by several parties of men and women gaily dressed, and half a dozen waggons. As we slowly ascended the hill we heard behind us repeated discharges of musquetry. We then learned from our Hottentots that there had been a wedding the day before, and the guests were taking their departure, paying the usual compliments on the occasion. In their

opinion nothing can be a higher one than in thus parting with their much valued gunpowder. Indeed, it may well be prized, for in many places where bucks are plenty, it furnishes them with subsistence, and it is sold as high as seven shillings a pound. Government assists them every year with a few pounds of the coarse sort at a reduced price of two shillings and three-pence.

The country now presented a most dreary appearance. Grass of every kind had disappeared; patches of stunted shrubs and mimosas furnished food for the cattle and sheep; and they fed eagerly on them, and were in excellent order. The form of the country was, however, pleasing, though doomed to everlasting sterility, defying the utmost aid of man to cultivate it. We rode up to a Hottentot, who was herding, to enquire about game, and managed to make ourselves very tolerably understood.

A few miles further the country again improved; mimosas, and parks, and grass again gratified us. A large place belonging to a boor, appeared on our left; a windmill and eight or

ten acres of lawn. This place we were told is a good farm. Proceeding onward, about sunset we fixed on a rich spot in the first kloof we had yet seen, with plenty of all that was required. As we had now travelled twenty miles, we imagined our horses would relish their food; but after drinking a good deal they stood still, shewing symptoms of having suffered from the change the night before. The dogs roused a hare, which proved our first victim.

We were up early. Our road lay through a similar pasturage, but soon changed to almost worse than barrenness, rugged stony hills, and scarce any thing but a stunted heath in patches. After passing over a very high hill, we found a covey of partridges, and killed three brace.

At the bottom of this steep descent, we had to go through what the Dutchmen call a *poort*; a chain of hills on either side, and room only for the road. On emerging from this, we had a view of a very extensive valley, which had the appearance of being extremely fertile. We were an hour in crossing it, and so parched with dust and heat, that it was almost insupportable;

not a drop of water could we get, except from a few dirty pools, which the Hottentots eagerly drank out of.

The weather continued serenely beautiful; a cloudless sky, but occasionally very hot. We were gradually ascending all the way from the sea, travelling north, and approaching nearer towards the line. We are told that the ascent continues for twenty degrees further. The bushes began now to assume a thicker and greener appearance, and I here remarked numberless instances of a shrub with a blossom somewhat like the honeysuckle, which is universally found grafted on other trees, but principally on the mimosa, in a similar manner to the misletoe on the oak, and which also grows here, and likewise on the mimosa. I have tried in vain to find it growing alone. It appears very curious, and can only be accounted for from the birds dropping the seeds, and their sticking to the gum, which is always exuding from the mimosa.

We passed a deserted boor's house on a wretched spot, and the country altogether be-

came worse,—our road, too, for the first time, bad. From a slight eminence we could now descry the Little Fish river, the banks of which were to be our resting place, and which we soon reached; but a more barren spot cannot be imagined. The horses were in a bad plight, and they had but a poor prospect before them. The river, or rather the course of it, had a more novel effect than any thing we had yet seen. It can be traced for miles, in its serpentine track, by the singular appearance of the willow of Babylon, and other shrubs. One of these was new to me, presenting a striking contrast to the others: it was rich, in full foliage and blossom, bushy, and gracefully drooping. The river has made itself so deep a channel, and the trees grow so luxuriantly, that to obtain a peep at its waters you must look down as into a deep pit.

The sun was just setting, when the dogs drew on some game close to us on the edge of the river, and soon sprung ten guinea fowl, exactly like those now bred in Europe, called here, by the Hottentots, *tarentalls*, two of which were bagged, and a third lost, being only

wounded, and night prevented our pursuing further. We dined on our partridge—excellently well dressed by the Hottentots. All the game of this country is so dry, that it requires plenty of sheeps' tail fat with it in the dressing. The Dutch eat every thing swimming in it; but we have been contented as yet with using it only in the cooking. Sheeps' tail fat is useful for many purposes—lamp oil, frying fish; and salted and dried it eats like the best bacon. The Dutchmen prize it most highly, and certainly most deservedly. The tail weighs in general from four to six pounds.

This morning we resolved to follow up the game. Barren as the spot was, it abounded with a great variety, but all extremely wild. The *pouw*, a species of bustard, weighing sometimes thirty pounds; the black *korhaan*, a smaller species; pheasants, guinea fowl, partridges, hares, turtle doves,—all up at the same time; but our dogs were soon disabled by a prickly seed which gets into their feet; it is about the size of a pea, and presents a thorn in every way it lies. It is the food of the guinea fowl, and is called a *dubbeltje*. The Dutch call our penny-pieces

by the same name, on account of their being originally issued as *double stuivers*. As we had walked a considerable distance, shooting, we determined to stop at the first water, being all strangers to the part of the country we were in. A few spring bucks crossed our path, and we had some running shots.

The day was closing, and we resolved to proceed; and at length reached a boor's place on the Great Fish river. Its owner was Jan de Lange; one of his sons gave us leave to rest near an old but deserted garden. The appearance of this place was better than any we had seen, but situation alone made it so,—they all appear without order and without the smallest enclosure near them. From former incursions of the Caffers, they are all elevated and free from bush and lurking places; their gardens are at a distance, near water.—No farmyard;—the waggon without its cover, is the only thing seen. A cooking-house in the form of a beehive open at top, is surrounded by slaves and Hottentots, and their children,—and their huts formed of reed and rush, are at a little distance. A boiler, with an old woman slave making soap,

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is seen further off. Their fat they melt into a sheep's skin, which they sew up, legs and all, and when full, they hang it up to a rafter, which gives the appearance of so many sheep gibbetted. In another space is seen their tanning place, which is made by four upright posts; to these they fasten an ox hide so as to bag. In this they tan their sheeps' skins for clothing.

We ordered a sheep here, which cost us six shillings; the mutton we have yet had is excellent. We got some butter, sixpence a pound, —and, what most pleased us, a loaf of fresh baked bread for eighteen pence. For the first time, we had milk, and for our dinner stewed hare, two guinea fowl, and the *korhaan*,—all remarkably well dressed. We desired the Hottentot to ask the boor down to take a glass with us, but learned he was from home; unfortunately we did not think of asking if there were sons, and we lost some excellent sporting anecdotes, as we discovered next morning. Our horses were turned out close to the house, for there were numerous wolves and hyenas in the neighbourhood.

The young boor came down to us while we were at breakfast, and we found he could talk English very well, which he told us he had learnt from some dragoons, who had been quartered at his father's house, some years ago. As we were now in the land of lions, we asked him some particulars; he told us that two horses had been killed the night before, about a mile from us; and his father had lost seven horses at different times in the very spot where ours were grazing; their dens are some distance in Caffer land. We asked him which he most feared, a lion or a Caffer; his ready reply was, that he "feared neither,"—that he had never killed a lion, but he had two Caffers. They had stolen his cattle, and all went in pursuit; he saw them, and concealed himself behind a bush, and lying on the ground, he shot one Caffer between his eyes; and the other following him, he took aim, and shot him,—the ball entering his head, exactly at the same spot as the other. He told the story with the most perfect coolness.

The boor pointed out the places, where two affairs had lately taken place with lions. A

boor riding by a thicket, with his gun as usual on his shoulder, a lion sprung upon and killed his horse, knocked him off, and losing his gun, he was obliged to climb a little tree, and wait until the lion had gorged himself and walked away. It is a well-known fact, that they invariably choose their food, if there is variety together,—horses or cattle in preference, then sheep, next Hottentots, and lastly white men. The other affair terminated more favorably; the boor had galloped quickly by a spot where a lion had been couching; missing his object, he followed, and sprung upon the horse behind; but could only fix his claws, when a violent kick threw him of, furrowing the poor horses back an inch deep. The boor was thrown off, but he fortunately preserved his gun, and taking a steady aim, shot the monster dead.

We walked to see two little water-mills, the first we had seen in this part of Africa, built on a most simple plan; the water they had, by dint of great labor, dammed up from the Great Fish river. The lead was above four miles in extent, but it watered in its progress a corn field and a garden. The corn was just cut, and the

fruit trees were most luxuriant. Their continual dread of Caffers hitherto, is their excuse for not building good houses.

At ten o'clock we were ready to set off, and we soon passed an old post in ruins, on the Great Fish river. A canteen was now established there, where they sell brandy; and two or three boors' relations lived there, but a more horribly barren spot cannot be conceived. The country appeared more and more sterile, more wretched even than a coal country, to which it bore some resemblance, from the black slaty strata of rock. Some miles further we passed another old post, inhabited by boors; and about sunset we descended to a farmhouse, in a plain of great extent, surrounded with highly picturesque hills; those in front of us were the Boschberg. We obtained ready leave to halt, and found that the place belonged to Mr. De Klerck, and that three of his sons, with their families, were living there during the winter.

We observed clouds of dust in different points of the valley, and soon discovered the cattle and sheep returning to their *kraals*. Each

flock had its separate *kraal*, fenced round with the thorny mimosa, piled high and impenetrable to wild beasts. The noise of the young lambs and goats, which till strong are kept at home,—the bleating of the dams, cows, and calves, altogether completely stunned us; but anxious to see their different arrangements, we attended the proceedings. When Mr. W. De Klerck had *counted* ALL*, he introduced us to his *vrouw*, from whom we had a very agreeable reception. She told me (as is uniformly the custom,) that she was married at sixteen,—had twelve children,—was then twenty-eight,—had lived seven years in her father-in-law's house,—that three years was the usual time,—her own father had given her as a portion, five hundred sheep, so many cattle and horses, and two slaves. All this was given in a breath, and merely from my asking how many children she had. Her sister-in-law then joined us,—a pretty delicate woman, sixteen years old: she carried an infant of three months: her husband was nineteen.

After having some peaches and milk pre-

* Sheep 5,800,—cattle 611,—horses 60.

sented to us, we retired to our dinner, and Mr. W. De Klerck joined us afterwards, not to take a glass, but to chat,—for neither he nor his father ever touch liquor, although they make wine and brandy. As he was a great sportsman, he was much delighted on seeing our guns, but he objected to their not having two sights like rifles, and that they had not hair triggers. All these however he could add himself; he had half a dozen capital ones of his own.—He and his brothers had killed four spring bucks that day, and a day seldom passed without bringing in some game. He had just brought his flock home from grazing in Caffer land, where they get the best grass; it is what they call the sweet grass, knotted like the *fiorin*, and creeps like it on the ground. He said that after two days rain it would grow some inches, and appear luxuriant, but in twelve more days it would wither and appear as we then saw it, like chaff.

Rains are quite uncertain in spring; they sometimes fall tremendously, and it was not unusual to find four or five hundred sheep dead of a morning. He approved of the *zureveldt*

for grazing in the summer only; and thought there was no fear of that country losing its grass like his own. Garden he had none, nor corn:—he could not attempt it without irrigation. He had perhaps in extent ten thousand acres, not one of which could he plough from that circumstance.

We were off this morning early, intending to reach his father's, B. De Klerck. We passed a place owned by a boor of the name of Erasmus, miserable in appearance;—indeed, the middle of the day is the most unpromising to pass a place, for the flocks and herds, which are the only animating objects, are perhaps four or five miles distant. Here the mimosas were thicker than in any other place with thorns; there was little subsistence around for any creature. Sparrows were numerous, and very like the European; they seem to build in the thorns. Here we leave the course of the river.—I can find no additional epithets to bestow on the country we are now in. Eternal wastes are its irrevocable doom, and nothing but some miraculous convulsion of nature can possibly change it. We had the Boschberg to our right, and al-

though not very near, we could ascribe the deep ruts and pits which we passed, to the torrents of rain which must occasionally fall from its height. As we ascended from out of this valley of wastes, the grass again shewed itself, and of a slight red tinge;—on examination we found it to be a *zureveldt*. The country also improved, opening to our left into gentle hills and plains, and in an hour's time we reached Berand De Klerck's, one of the most eligible places we had yet seen. We were received with honest welcome, and we resolved to pass the night here.,

His house is a long building; one end is parted off for bed-rooms by the partition. The *vrouw* sits at the side of a long table,—tea or coffee cups close to her: from this she never moves. Her employment is sipping tea or coffee, and making clothes for the family. At the further end is a large fire-place, and half a dozen slaves cooking: in the centre, a slave cutting up pumpkins, or shelling Indian corn. Coffee was immediately presented to us, without milk or sugar,—but to Englishmen, these are now added, and generally without request. After this the walk in the garden was proposed,

with which we were much gratified. From the flow of water which he raises from the Little Fish river, which we here again cross, he can irrigate the garden, one hundred and fifty acres of land, and turn a mill: this makes the place very important. The lead is three thousand yards. Where gardens possess this advantage, they say vegetables may be raised throughout the year. The day being remarkably hot, De Klerck turned the stream over it, and when I viewed the parched earth suck up the waters, it very forcibly recalled to me the allusion in Virgil:—

"Claudite jam rivos pueri: sat prata biberunt."

Buc. *Ecl.* 3*d.*

Virgil wrote for a climate such as this, where irrigation was then practised, and still is to a great extent. During my progress through the colony, I was frequently reminded of the Georgics. The scene now before me may very justly be compared with the primitive times.—The plough rude, like such as are seen in old prints, —the threshing floor enclosed with a mud wall only, and in the open field,—and the grain trodden out by cattle, as recorded in scripture. The boors carry on every thing by barter;—as

Homer valued Glaucus's shield at so many oxen, so do they estimate every thing in like manner. A Hottentot is hired by the year for so many cows or so many beeves.

The vicinity to the English settlement will no doubt produce a material improvement in their mode of life. Wants will creep in imperceptibly; the stool will be exchanged for the chair; the rough table made by himself, will look mean by his neighbour's more polished one; the mat will be thrown to the Hottentot, and the feather bed will take the place; glass windows will be wanted to keep out the rough intruding weather; Miss will want finer gowns, and Master will be able to procure a strong pair of shoes for a couple of sheep, instead of being at the trouble to make them himself. Then the Africaner, who possesses every thing within himself, meat, corn, fruit, wine, oil, milk, and honey, with his patriarchal family around him, taught to make and mend his own implements, will be enabled to supply those articles which the progress of civilization may render necessary to the more refined state of society. Even the Caffer will begin to

find there are things wanting to his comfort of which he now never even dreams. He must either fall into the stream of luxury and glide with it, or else dispose of his land and retire further into the interior.

De Klerck told us that twelve years ago he was tired of a pastoral idle life, and he heard of this place for sale. He gave £350 for it, and now he would not take £3500. He was building a very handsome stone house when the rust first appeared: then he resolved to stop, but he was now going on again, as he thinks it depends upon the seasons.

On our return to the house we saw his daughter, who was lately married. She had drawn a crowd of admirers round her;—not less than seventeen candidates met together at her father's house one Saturday night, which is the usual day for courtship. She was inexorable to the whole, and fixed on a neighbouring youth. They appeared in court,* and were to be married in three weeks. Again she refused to buckle to, and fixed on another, to whom

* Similar to the banns being published.

she was just married at the age of sixteen. The court, on her appearing a second time, fined her £50 for her indecision. Her excuse was that when her lover saluted her one morning, he smelt of brandy.—Whether this was a sufficient apology, or whether it was on this ground, is hard to say,—but the fine was remitted. The discarded lover in order to prove his indifference, prevailed on a nymph in the vicinity, to console him for his loss, and the two couples were married at the same time.

We retired to our dinner. We were *not asked* to stay to their supper, which would have been ready in an hour. It is not the fashion to *invite*, but had we staid, we should have been welcome.

As night advanced, we had a most beautiful scene; part of the Boschberg, distant about eight miles, ended in an abrupt point. This we had observed to smoke all day, and it now gave the effect of a volcano. The fire from the burning of the grass, began to grow brighter, and to extend itself down the side of the mountain. At one moment it appeared like burning lava; at another it resembled the regularity of an ad-

vancing army; and, by the bushes occasionally intersecting it, we could fancy skirmishing parties firing and retreating, and then advancing.

De Klerck is a very fine looking independent fellow, and was one of the leaders of the revolt against the English after their first arrival. The military had artillery, and the boors determined they would have some also. They got a tough tree, scooped it out, and bound it with iron hoops. The cannon completed, they began to load it. They had heard of four pounders, &c. but resolved to call theirs nine pounders,—and that it must of course be loaded with nine pounds of powder! When loaded, they were all afraid to fire it;—at last they hit on the following expedient.—A hole was dug deep enough for a man to get into; to this place a train was laid to the cannon, and off it went,—and into ten thousand pieces. Before they had time to complete another, they were surprised and taken. De Klerck has since been a good subject, and he shows, with great pleasure, a double barrelled gun which the governor gave him.

We set off early this morning, and had very good success with our guns, having killed five *tarentalls*, one wild goose, one spring buck, one *duyker** buck, and one hare, and reached Somerset before sunset.

This day was as hot as the two preceding. We were occupied in seeing every thing worth notice. There are several good buildings, and some excellent corn land belonging to government, which can be irrigated; with a mill, a smithy, &c. all on a good scale. There cannot be a finer position to build a town upon. It is situated at the base of the Boschberg mountain, and reminded me a good deal of the scite of Cape Town. The landdrost was absent at Cape town, and Mr. Hart officiated for him in his absence as senior *heemraad*. The public offices as well as the prison, have been constructed out of the buildings of the farm, and are tolerably commodious, so that at present very little money has been expended upon the former.

We saw in the prison, three Bushmen who

* *Diver*, so called from its plunging among the bushes.

had been lately apprehended, accused of the murder of a Hottentot woman. It appears that they had with some others, absconded from the service of the boors, and had been living in the bush, stealing sheep and cattle from their former masters. Several had been shot, refusing to surrender,—but these three were surrounded and brought in. This poor hunted race is now become almost extinct in this quarter. In color they resemble the Hottentot, but they are more diminutive, and are easily distinguished by their greater activity, quicker eye, and sprightliness of countenance.

We were fortunate in meeting at dinner at a friend's house, a missionary and his wife, just returned from Caffer land: they had one little child, who could speak the language, and the parents so much encouraged it, that he could scarcely talk in his mother tongue. We were most eager to obtain every information, and learned that the missionaries live in the greatest tranquillity amongst them. There are two others with him; they have a large school, and are proceeding to arrange a grammar of the language, which is remarkable for its softness,

One of the missionaries is a classical scholar, and he considers the language a perfect one,—and in the conjugation of the verbs, bearing some analogy to the Greek. Civilization is the only way to bring them into good neighbourhood: stealing cattle is hardly considered a crime amongst one another, provided it be done adroitly;—how then can their neighbours expect to be spared?

The Caffers are pronounced to be decidedly not the aborigines of the country; many of their mountains and rivers retain their Hottentot names. They call themselves *Amakosæ*, or the tribe of Kousa. Caffer is an Arabian word for infidel, or bad man; and they themselves frequently so apply it. They have some Mahometan and Jewish rites, and they so idolize a blackish bird of the toucan species, (one of which the missionary had with him stuffed), that if by accident they should kill it, they immediately sacrifice an ox or heifer, by killing or burning it. The same sacrifice they make if a person is killed by lightning; and they hold in high estimation a beautiful crane, one of which we also saw alive: they call it *maa-*

hoom, from the noise it continually makes. With these and a few similar exceptions, they have no idea of worship.

We made a long excursion this day over the Boschberg mountain. At a distance it appears furrowed by age and torrents;—the cavities dark and gloomy. On nearer approach these furrows or ridges assume the appearance of buttresses formed by art for the support of this mass of mountain, and the cavities were well clothed with shrubberies. We were some time ascending the rugged and almost perpendicular height, although it is not more than eight hundred feet. Midway we found two Hottentots asleep. As we approached the summit, the atmosphere got much colder: the morning was rather cloudy and delightfully cool. The view from the top is grand and extensive, and we amused ourselves for a considerable time in walking and riding over the *plain* of mountain, for, unlike all those we had hitherto seen, there was no one point higher than another,—no Pelion upon Ossa, or Alps upon Alps,—but abrupt upon all sides. The houses in the valley appeared scarcely distinguishable,—and

. The choughs and crows that wing the mid-day air,
Showed scarce so gross as beetles. SHAKSPEARE.

Part of the mountain is in a state of cultivation, and very considerable improvements making under the direction of Mr. Hart. There is a considerable supply of water, and a shaking bog, which he is draining; the pasture is all *zureveldt*. European products may here be brought to a perfection, which greater heat prevents from arriving at excellence below. Frost and snow are common in the winter, and the latter lies for two or three days occasionally.

An excellent and substantial water flour-mill, is built upon the farm; the machinery of which is likewise applied to a threshing machine. A great quantity of corn had been sown, but the rust was making progress. This most destructive of all visitations, the rust or mildew, which has proved a serious obstacle to growing corn in the English settlement, and consequently caused much distress, from the very exorbitant price of corn imported, is not yet very satisfactorily accounted for. The rust appears exactly like the rust of iron; it begins at the root, very

soon covers the stalk, and the ear dries away,—and is so pernicious in its whole effect, that the stem is hardly worth cutting. The Dutch treat this evil with the utmost indifference, and if the crops fail, they are contented to eat their fat mutton, without bread. They have hitherto merely grown for their own use, never having had a market till the establishment of the new settlement. Indian corn is totally exempt from this calamitous blight, and makes amends in a great degree for the disappointment, yearly occasioned by the rust.

The increasing cold made us eagerly desire to be comfortably housed, and we hastened to our friend Mr. Hart's house, where we were engaged to pass the day. The hearth was piled with a blazing wood fire, and a bountiful board crowned with a large plum-pudding, brought to our recollection the cold and the comforts of an English christmas. A gentleman arrived in the evening, suffering considerably from the cold, which he informed us was not confined to the mountain we were on, for that previously to his ascent, he had been enveloped in a shower

of snow! Such is the very unaccountable variation of this climate.

We separated early on the following morning from our hospitable friends, and departed for the Bavian's river. Our route lay across the ridge of mountains, about north-east; the descent was rather gradual, but the path stony. The channel of the Fish river again appeared in view, and about noon we crossed it; we were still however in the colony, as this river is not in these parts the boundary line. The great drought had parched up the country, and no water was to be seen in the river, but in pools here and there. After passing a fine farm belonging to Groote Willem Prinsloc, (in which are combined most of the advantages looked for in an African residence, with as usual the offices detached and separated in tasteless confusion, wanting that uniformity and arrangement so beneficial and so pleasing likewise to a European,) we crossed the Bavian's river, and rode along its banks until we entered the *kloof*, through which it runs, barely allowing room for a waggon road by its side, as it is encompassed with very high and rocky mountains,

brown and bleak, forming a striking contrast with the luxuriant and elegant willow of Babylon, growing along the channel of the river.

Following its course for a few miles, without any alteration of scenery, we arrived at two openings; through the one to the right flows the Bush Fountain, running rather brisk, on which stream there are some fine farms; our road lay to the left. Turning suddenly round a high rocky promontory, our ears were saluted with the screams of some dozens of baboons, who no doubt have the honor of giving their name to the river.

Soon afterwards we were in a shower, as we thought, of flying ants; but from the blows we received on our face and hands, and the horses turning round, we discovered them to be locusts; the scourge with which this country is occasionally visited. They differ from those in a lower latitude; the color of the body is a dusky grey, and the wings white and transparent. These pests had settled on a green grassy spot in our path, and would soon devour every blade. We found that we had to cross the river, almost

every half mile; indeed it is so singularly tortuous, that as we afterwards proved, we had to pass it two and thirty times. We unsaddled at a large farm, where we got some milk and eggs. There is an extensive garden, fruit trees, and small vineyard, but much neglected. It was now occupied by a *Bastaard*, of the name of Klaas Ekhard, and several others of the same tribe, that is, the progeny of colonists with Hottentots. Generally speaking, they are an idle race, but this perhaps may arise from their not being properly protected. We found them particularly attentive, notwithstanding the presence of a brandy waggon, from the district of George, to which most of them had been applying with visible effect. They had among them about a hundred head of cattle, and above fifteen hundred sheep, and lived quite as well as many of the boors.

We continued our path for about two hours after we left this farm, and came to an untenanted one, which we learned belonged to an officer residing in Cape Town. In another mile we reached the residence of Mr. T. Pringle, the friend we had engaged to visit. We were very

glad to pass the evening quietly, and the following day at home in social converse with our friend and several of his relatives, who are permanently settled here. Mr. Pringle was only here at present on a temporary visit from Cape Town, previous to his return to England, and was residing with one of his brothers.

CHAPTER VII.

A LION HUNT.

We made an excursion this morning to the source of the river where the father of our friend resided, a fine patriarchal character, with snowy locks, surrounded by children and grandchildren. Here we breakfasted. This farm is generally successful for corn culture. The present season, however, had not been favorable, owing to the great drought, which had so dried up the river as to disable them from irrigating, without which it were in vain to think of sowing. They had had but two days of steady rain for near twelve months. The little vineyard was neatly kept, and shewed more grapes than we had hitherto seen. We returned after dinner.

We rode to day over the farm of Mr. William Pringle, our friend's eldest brother. Thirty acres can be irrigated in moist seasons. There was corn enough in rick to last the family for a

couple of years, which was a sight we had not witnessed in Albany, although favoured in other respects. All the farms here are good for sheep, and their flocks are fast increasing. The locusts hovered about on every side, but did not alight on the corn. An instance was related by a gentleman present, of the rapidity with which they appear and devour. He had decided one year on reaping on a Monday. The previous Sunday evening some neighbours assembled to be ready for the next morning. In the night, however, the locusts had settled and devoured the whole. In the cool of the evening we rode out and ascended a high hill, from whence we had distant prospects of the Winterberg, the Chumi hills, the Mancazana and Kounap rivers.

We went next morning on an excursion through the country, and retraced our steps down the river until we came to the Bush Fountain before mentioned. Up this valley we rode for four miles, which brought us to a very fine and valuable farm, with the most luxuriant field of wheat I had ever seen in Africa, and the force of the water still enabled the land to be irri-

gated. Mr. Devenish, the gentleman who resided here, had lived many years in the colony, but declared that he had never known so dry a season, which proves how remarkably the climate varies. We were now only one hundred and fifty miles from Graham's Town and its vicinity, where they have had the finest possible rains throughout the season.

An excellent road had been made from hence to the military post of Caha, over which we passed, but did not arrive till after sunset. The commanding officer was gone to Graham's Town, and Mr. S. with whom we were acquainted, had retired to bed much fatigued, having been out for four days unsuccessfully in pursuit of elephants. On our sending in our names, he requested Dr. D. would shew us every attention, and provide beds for us. We fortunately found the doctor just sitting down to an excellent dinner, and whilst the claret was circulating, Mr. Rennie, of the Scotch party, who had accompanied us this morning, amused us with stories of his feats in elephant and lion hunting.

The week previous he had accompanied a

party of boors in a successful hunt after the former. They set off, a party of fourteen in number, and found upwards of three score elephants encamped on the banks of the Kounap river. It was late when the party arrived, therefore an attempt would have been useless and dangerous. Large fires were lighted to keep off lions as well as elephants, and the party being much fatigued, they lay down and slept.

The elephants awoke them early with breaking and pulling trees up by the roots, and rolling themselves in the water, &c. The party immediately pressed for the attack, and now commenced the sport. The elephants, upon receiving the first shot, as if by mutual consent, gave chace, though not for above six or seven hundred yards. This answered the desired effect. One of the party galloped between the elephants and the bush, which they had just left, commencing, at the same time, a very heavy fire, which harrassed them to such a degree, that they fled to the plains, leaving behind them thick cover, in which they might have been perfectly secure from the shots. On

these plains great numbers of small bushes are found at no great distance from each other, so that if one party consents to drive the elephant out of one bush, the other will conceal themselves, and by this means may get some good shots.

One large bull elephant stationed himself in the middle of one of these small bushes; and at least two hundred rounds were fired without being able to bring him down, or make him move from the place in which he had stationed himself. At every shot he received he was observed to blow a quantity of water into the wound, and then tear up a large lump of earth to endeavour to stop the blood. The Caffers do the same thing when they have been shot—that is, tear up a handful of grass and thrust it into the wounded place; and it is thought they have learnt this from seeing the elephants do it. At length the great bull dropped. The party then entered the bush, and, to their great surprise, found that the reason he would not leave this spot, was, that he had there found a pool of water, with which he had been washing his wounds. His height measured seventeen feet and three quarters, and

his teeth weighed one hundred and ninety pounds. Before the day's sport was over, they had killed thirteen.

This anecdote, and many others, made us strongly desirous of joining in some of these hunting excursions, and we talked the matter over so warmly, that we went half resolved to bed. Mr. S. joined us at breakfast, when it was finally determined that we should make up a party for a lion hunt, Mr. S. offering to accompany us. As our horses had begun to feel a little tender hoofed, we got the troop farrier to shoe their fore feet. After taking a cursory view of the fine farm belonging to Captain Stockentrom, the landdrost of Graaff Reynet, we departed, taking the same road back to our friend's house on the Bavian's river, only deviating from it about a mile to visit Mr. Krebs, the Prussian naturalist, whom we had before met with, and who has fixed himself here at a boor's house, finding this country prolific in new varieties of birds and insects. At Bavian's river we found our friends much surprised at our intended expedition, and the evening passed agreeably, with much jocularity on the subject.

Prayers were read this morning (being Sunday) by our host, who is much esteemed here, and it was highly gratifying to see the swarthy congregation assemble. Klaas Ekhard and his friends were among the number. Chapters of the bible were read in Dutch, and the Hottentot men and women afterwards read verses in turn. They sung two hymns in the same melodious voice for which the Hottentots are so celebrated. We had some additions to our party at dinner, and the following day went out partridge shooting; but the weather was so hot between the hills, that we soon returned.

This morning it was resolved that we should set off, and muster all the boors that we could meet with for our lion expedition, and take our leave finally of our agreeable hospitable friends. We visited some rocks on our road at a little distance from the path, on which we were told were some rude paintings, done by the Bushmen when they formerly inhabited this country, certainly not less than thirty years ago. Under a projecting rock, which served to screen the lower ones from the weather, we discovered these paintings, and they are really singular,

when we reflect that they are done by an untutored savage race. The rocks were apparently made a little smooth, and the figures painted on them. They mostly consisted of cattle, and the various antelopes: the colors black, red, white, and brown. Some of the cows were fantastically drawn with red horns, and black and white spotted bodies. One space was occupied in representing a body of Caffers with their assagais in pursuit of a spring buck. The men were drawn almost exactly in the manner the burlesque dots are done. We were told there was a figure resembling a unicorn, but we could not distinguish it. Indeed the whole was so faint from age, that we adopted the method used at Herculaneum, — wetting the rock in order to make the colors brighter.

Having satisfied our curiosity, we galloped on, and continued sharp riding through the kloof for some time, until we began to ascend an abrupt hill, from the top of which we saw nothing but wild desolation without tree or bush. We had the Tarka on our left, descending into an extensive valley. We unsaddled

for a short time. Continuing our course along this valley, naked of bush as the hills, we began again gradually to ascend, and on the top had a grand and extensive prospect of a country well covered with mimosa, and the channel of the river T'Kei was seen about the centre. At the bottom of this hill lived one of the famed lion hunters, who cheerfully promised to join us. We rode on until we arrived at the house of another equally celebrated, Diederik Muller. He was unfortunately absent at Somerset, having been summoned to give evidence on the subject of the three Bushmen before alluded to, and whom he had, with others, apprehended. He was hourly expected. His wife was loudly complaining of her husband having been detained there so long. Taking leave of her with a request that she would mention our intention on his arrival, we went on about two miles further on the banks of the T'Kei, to a farm where his two younger brothers, Christian and Stephanus, lived. The sight of us, introduced as we were by their brother sportsmen, seemed to exhilarate them; but when they were informed of our project, and particularly when a large

horn of brandy was produced, there were greetings in abundance. Between nine and ten o'clock a substantial supper was brought in, the glass circulated pretty freely, and the night was spent as sportsmen in all countries are wont to do.

About noon news was brought that Diederik Muller had arrived, and only a few minutes after we had left his house. We immediately began our preparations. The guns were examined and fresh flinted, whilst others were employed in melting bullets. About three o'clock we set off, collecting as we went. Our party, in addition, consisted of the three Mullers, the boor at whose house we first called, Mr. S., Mr. Rennie, and ten Hottentots with our led horses, baggage, and guns. It was impossible not to notice the appearance of the brothers Muller. They were fine tall men, above six feet, the elder perhaps not forty, with particularly good and intelligent countenances, and famed far and wide as lion hunters. Amongst the stories which they told us, one was of a narrow escape of the elder brother. He had marked, as he thought, the exact spot in which he had

seen a lion couch, and rode on with a view of alighting at a certain distance; but he had miscalculated, and the lion darted on him from behind a stone, and bore him and his horse to the ground. He lay senseless from the fall; the lion leaped on him, and would immediately have destroyed him, had not his attention been caught at the moment to the rapid advance of the brother Christian, who, afraid of firing at a distance, lest he might injure his brother, boldly came close up to him, and shot the monster through the heart.

About four o'clock we crossed the T'Kei, which is in this place the boundary line. There was not sufficient water in it to run. Its course seemed to be here about north; but in its various windings it receives many tributary streams, and falls into the sea, passing through Caffer-Land E. and by S. many miles to the eastward of the Keiskamma.

We were now in the Tambookie country, or rather in the long deserted country of the Bushmen, which the alarmed Tambookies had occupied for the last three months, flying from their

own country on account of the advance of the marauding tribes. These latter, if they are not sufficiently formidable to cause the government to dread their advance, may yet produce very serious mischief by forcing the intervening tribes back upon the colony. We learned that they form a complete armed *cordon*, reaching from Port Natal, where one of the chiefs, *Chaca*, rules, as far north as Lattakoo, led on by four other desperate chiefs, called *Monquanè*, *Mowesha*, *Montabese*, and *Payaleta;* the latter of whom has, however, fallen lately in battle, and it is not known whether his followers have altogether been dispersed, or a new leader appointed. This cordon cuts off all means of communication with the interior, and confines the barter at the Caffer fairs to the tribes immediately in the vicinity of the frontier.

The country here is flat and well grassed, but wanting moisture. We passed some women who had been gathering rushes, and some children, who asked us for tobacco. Living so near the frontier they did not appear afraid of us. After riding about two hours, at sunset we came to a very large kraal, and were

soon surrounded. Our party looked formidable, and the captain was at first much alarmed, imploring to know why we came, and what we wanted. He was soon made acquainted with our real object, and confidence was restored.

As the thunder and lightning, which had commenced early in the evening, seemed to be approaching towards us, and to be the precursor of rain, we resolved to take shelter here. Our original intention was to have travelled two hours longer, and to sleep on our hunting ground, in order to be up so early as to look for the lion before he lay down after his night's adventures. When it was known that we were to remain, an additional quantity of curdled milk was brought us. They never drink it but in this state, and it soon turns, from being kept in a bag made out of a hide, from whence it is taken when wanted in the little neat baskets made of rushes. A hut was prepared for those that wished it, but most of the party lay down outside, no rain falling as we expected. These huts are built in the form of a large round beehive, with either rough branches of trees, or with watling, such as the country may pro-

vide. Over this dried rushes are sewed on, or long grass. To prevent the cattle from destroying them, they sometimes cover them with mud and manure, or fence them round with thorns. The inside roof is not four feet high, black with smoke, and covered with millions of flies, but no other vermin of any kind; the door is, of course, very low, and in some instances you are obliged to creep in. They are of different sizes, as each builds according to the number of his family. The hive we were in could not comfortably contain more than half a dozen, but we had treble that number at one time sitting huddled together to look at us. Their questions to our interpreter were numerous and unceasing, particularly by the females; and it was quite animating to see their lively intelligent countenances and sparkling eyes. When we were a little more acquainted, "*Baseila, Baseila,*" soon followed. We had provided ourselves with beads to give in payment for our board and lodging whilst among them, but we had not many, and therefore were frequently obliged to refuse (as we were advised,) by saying, "*tous, tous,*" which either means we have none to give, or it is all gone. With the men we found

that sufficient, but the women and girls were more importunate; with the latter a good deal out of sport.

The dress of the men was an ox hide, made very pliant, tied round the neck, and reaching below the knee, but open in front. The women's was made of the same material, with fuller drapery, and as the weather is warm or cold, they wear the skin with the hair on inside, or not. As we were now inclined to sleep, our interpreter no sooner hinted at it, than all crept out, and left us to our repose, having first put out our fire.

We mustered by day-light; and as we were anxious, for the sake of the novelty, to have some of the Tambookies to accompany us, we promised to kill them plenty of bucks, and were not long in persuading thirty of them to follow us. In a short time we observed them leading out of the cattle kraal two milk-white oxen, with their horns bound round with thongs, which to all appearance one might fancy were intended for sacrifice, but on closer inspection we found they were their pack oxen, prepared to carry

home such game as we might kill for them. We made a singular appearance as we cantered along. Each Tambookie had a half starved dog; some of the best runners would keep close to us, but on occasionally looking back, the plain seemed covered with horsemen,—whites and Hottentots, blacks and dogs; and as the bucks were discovered sometimes in one direction, and then in another, (still keeping in mind the appointed rendezvous,) we that were strangers, took care to follow the eldest Muller, who, throughout, shewed us the greatest attention, and was anxious we should see every part of the sport.

In two hours we got to the rendezvous; unsaddled, and waited for our comrades. Mr. S. had separated from us to fire at a spring buck, and we soon saw him in chase of one he had wounded, which although shot through the body, outstripped his pursuer, until the Tambookies, who were behind, put an end to the chase by piercing it with their assagais. In a short time all had assembled. We made a slight breakfast by dividing some boiled beef which we had brought with us.

As soon as the Tambookies had accomplished skinning the spring buck, we told them to take their breakfast, and they were not a little pleased to be told it was all for them. It was no great sacrifice on our part, when we saw how they had mangled and carried the carcase in their arms, and on their heads. At the same time our food for the remainder of the day depended on what we could kill, but we trusted to chance. The Tambookies soon proposed to light a fire, which they do in a curious manner. They invariably carry with them a peeled rod of about five feet long, tied up in their bundle of assagais, which they sometimes use as a walking stick. They collect a little dry grass, or rotten wood; laying this on the ground, they place on it one end of the stick, which has a little dent or hole half through, with another stick of the same kind, which is sharpened in the end: this they fix in the hole, and turn it rapidly round with the palms of their hands, relieving each other, until the dry grass underneath, and around, is ignited.

As we were now to commence our search for the monarch of the plains, we mounted

our horses, leaving the Tambookies to enjoy their repast, with directions where they were to cross over to us. Our party was formed into two divisions. Mr. S., Mr. R., and ourselves, were to cross the plain about the centre, and beat for him amongst the grass.—Diederik was our leader. The other party were to skirt the base of the mountain, about which grew a few tall mimosas, and to keep in an even line with us, about half a mile distant. In this way we were crossing an extensive plain, divided by a fine rolling stream, over which we passed, called by the boors the Klip Fontein. We thought it singular it should have a Dutch name, but it appears that about twenty-five years ago, a boor of the name of Conrad Buys, for some crime, fled from the colony, and settled on this spot. He formed an intimacy with Gaika, and other chiefs, and he became so useful to them, that they would not give him up: he had his dwelling in the place where we breakfasted, but there are no remains of it.

A variety of bucks were now flying before us, but not very numerous. As all those who were provided with guns had pledged themselves

not to fire, in case a lion was found, until all were present, we were not a little surprised to hear the report of a gun from one of the other divisions, echoing through the hills, as if a cannon had been fired: indeed their pieces may be compared to a small one, as they carry a ball of about six to the pound.—To this another succeeded,—and then another. We began to complain; they were nearly hid from view by a projecting rock, and some mimosas; however we soon discovered the cause, by seeing some Hottentots running off, and some of the party dismounting. Our fears were not only removed, but we had the satisfaction of knowing that provision was made for dinner.

One division continued the route, and by this means got a head of the other. The mountains seemed to meet just before us, but as we approached we saw a pretty wide opening through which we passed, when another valley or plain of similar character, but of much greater extent, was presented to our view. Here all animated Nature seemed collected, and to reign unmolested! The signal was, however, soon given, that man, the destroyer, was

approaching, and all the various animals, with snorts and bounds, began to collect in bodies, gnoos, harte-beests, quaggas, spring bucks, and roe bucks. The gnoo is the animal, so well described by Barrow; the existence of which was but a very few years ago disputed. They run sluggishly at first, but at once they spring out, whisk their long tails about, and with their heads to the ground, defy their pursuers. Their dusky colour and bushy heads give them a strange appearance.

A considerable herd of these animals now lay in our path, as we still kept about the same distance from the base of the hills, which here and there were sprinkled with mimosas. It was determined to employ our time until the other division came parallel to us, by endeavoring to get a shot at the gnoos. We put our horses at speed, and as each of those who had guns came pretty near, they dismounted and fired, loaded, and then chased again. Owing to this, we, as well as the herd, became separated.

Mr. S. had chased in the direction of the mimosas, trenching on the ground which our

comrades were to take; he was getting closer to his object, and was about to dismount a second time, when his eyes glanced on the long wished for game,—an enormous lion! He was walking majestically slow,—but when Mr. S. gave the tallyho to us, he couched, and seemed inclined to wait, but soon afterwards cantered off to the mimosas.

In a few seconds we were all up, at least our division.—The first object was to prevent him from climbing the mountain, we therefore rode through the mimosas, about three hundred yards from where he had entered, and got between him and the heights. Diederik Muller, and Mr. S. with their servants and led horses, then rode round the little grove, whilst we were stationed where we first entered. The grove was hardly five hundred yards in length, and twenty in breadth, consequently we could by this arrangement command the whole of it.

True to our engagement, as well as heartily wishing their assistance, we waited for the other party. The other part of our division having

rode round the grove, came up opposite to us, but at a distance, and as we saw them dismount we did the same. Our situation was not very enviable; we had but one large gun, but Mr. Rennie, who carried it, was perfectly collected. We were talking to each other rather in a whisper when Mr. Rennie very coolly said, "Listen, the gentleman is grumbling."—The sound was so very like distant thunder, that we doubted it, but at the same moment I caught a glimpse of the lion walking away not a hundred and fifty yards from us, and he must have been previously still nearer to us than we had calculated. I gave the alarm, which was echoed to our friends, who in an instant mounted and rode up to the lower end, calling upon us to advance. We were moving down to gain a position on a little height, when a gun was fired, followed by four more. This convinced us our other division had joined.

We thought there would have been an end to our sport before it had well begun; but on the contrary, the shots were fired not only to prevent him leaving the copse, but to prove their guns, for a miss-fire is frequently of con-

sequence. The last shot had the effect of turning him, and we now had a full view of him returning to the centre, whisking his tail about, and treading among the smaller bushes as if they had been grass, reminding us most forcibly of the paintings we had seen of this majestic animal.

The last shot however had convinced us that our position was not safe, for the ball passed very near us. We called to inform the party of this, and they resolved on another plan of attack. They desired us to station two Hottentots on a hill above our position, and we were to join them. We crossed again through the bush, and it was then determined that we were all to dismount, and tie our horses together, and then to advance on foot.

This is the usual plan, and it is done to secure any person from galloping off by his horse taking fright or otherwise, which would induce the lion to pursue, and thus one or other might be sacrificed.

We had hardly begun to tie our horses, when

the Hottentots stationed on the hill, cried out that the lion was running off at the lower end, where he had attempted to escape before. We were on horseback in a second, but the lion had got a head; we had him however in full view, as there was nothing to intercept it. Off he scampered.—The Tambookies who had just come up, and mixed amongst us, could scarcely clear themselves of our horses; and their dogs howling and barking,—we hallooing,—the lion still in full view, making for a small copse, about a mile distant,—and the number and variety of the antelopes on our left, scouring off in different directions, formed one of the most animating spectacles the annals of sporting could produce.

Diederik and Mr. S. being on very spirited horses, were the foremost, and we wondered to see them pass on in a direction different from the copse where we had seen the lion take covert. Christian gave us the signal to dismount, when we were, as well as could be judged, about two hundred yards from the copse. He desired us to be quick in tying the horses, which was done as fast as each came

up. 'And now the die was cast,—there was no retreating. We were on lower ground than the lion, with not a bush around us. Diederik and Mr. S. had now turned their horses, for as we afterwards learned, they had been run off with in consequence of their bridles having broken. The plan was to advance in a body, leaving our horses with the Hottentots, who were to keep their backs towards the lion, fearing they should become unruly at the sight of him.

All these preparations occupied but a few seconds, and they were not completed,—when we heard him growl, and imagined he was making off again:—but no,—as if to retrieve his character from suspicion of cowardice for former flight, he had made up his mind in turn to attack us. To the growl succeeded a roar, and in the same instant we saw him bearing down upon us, his eye-balls glistening with rage. We were unprepared; his motion was so rapid, no one could take aim,—and he furiously darted at one of our horses, whilst we were at their heads, without a possibility of preventing it. The poor horse sprung forward, and with the force of the action wheeled all the

horses round with him. The lion likewise wheeled, but immediately couched at less than ten yards from us. Our left flank thus became exposed, and on it fortunately stood C. Muller and Mr. Rennie. What an anxious moment! For a few seconds we saw the monster at this little distance, resolving as it were, on whom he should first spring. Never did I long so ardently to hear the report of a gun. We looked at them aiming, and then at the lion. It was absolutely necessary to give a mortal blow, or the consequences might perhaps be fatal to some one of the party.—A second seemed a minute.—At length Christian fired;—the underjaw of the lion dropped,—blood gushed from his mouth, and he turned round with a view to escape.—Mr. Rennie then shot him through the spine,—and he fell.

At this moment he looked grand beyond expression. Turning again towards us, he rose upon his fore feet,—his mouth bleeding, his eyes flashing vengeance. He attempted to spring at us;—but his hind legs denied him assistance;—he dragged them a little space, when Stephanus put a final period to his exist-

ence; by shooting him through the brain.—He was a noble animal—measuring nearly twelve feet from the nose to the tip of the tail.

Diederik and Mr. S. at this crisis rejoined us, and eagerly enquired if all were safe. They had seen the lion bear down upon us, and they thought it impossible but that one of us must have suffered. The anxiety now was to learn whose horse had been the victim, and it was soon announced that it was a highly valued one of poor Diederik's. The lion's teeth had pierced quite through the lower part of the thigh; it was lame, and Diederik thinking it irrecoverably so, determined on shooting it, declaring, that no *schelm* beast should kill his horse.*—We all however interfered, and it was at length arranged with two Tambookies, that if they would lead him to their kraal they should have a goat for their trouble. The Tambookies had some beads given them for skinning the lion,—which they readily accomplished with their assagais; my trophy was the under jaw, and teeth. The elements now seemed deter-

* The horse died subsequently of the wounds it had received.

mined to crown the whole with a *feu de joie*, for in a few minutes we had just over us, a tremendous peal of thunder!

Thus ended a scene which I have in vain endeavoured to describe, and which I never can forget;—it would with all its attendant circumstances, form an admirable subject for a painting.

Here we drank our last remains of brandy, for which we were indebted to Mr. S. who handed it to all around. Our horses having now picked up a little grass, we proceeded. We passed out of the valley to the right, and were soon amongst mountains and stones. The clouds began to lower, and our prospects for the night were not very pleasing. We were descending to a narrow valley where there was more verdure than we had seen for a long time, and our horses appeared as if they anticipated a good meal; nor were we less pleased when we saw some Tambookie huts; they were however uninhabited, and when the Tambookies came up, we learned it was one of their old kraals, and from which they had fled when

their foes, the *Ficani*, had approached. They even shewed us the hills, not a very great distance off, to the summit of which the enemy had advanced.

As there was every appearance of rain, we resolved to take up our quarters for the night. Our delighted horses were let loose in luxuriant grass, which was occasioned by a little rill of water overflowing part of the narrow valley,—well manured from the old kraals. Two of the huts were cleared of the rubbish which had fallen in; and by pulling the dry grass from the roof of another, we made comfortable beds. The harte-beest which had previously only been cut down through the middle, and so laid on one of the led horses, was now ordered to be skinned. Whilst our Hottentots were employed in this, the Tambookies were collecting wood, and lighting two or three fires. Having neither kettle, nor any other vessel to cook our dinner, we were forced to be content with cutting off small slices, running a stick through them, and broiling them upon the embers. We had but a small allowance of bread, but the water was excellent; it required however a hunts-

man's appetite to enjoy such fare,—and to forget that the harte-beest had only been killed an hour or two.

We were warm and sheltered from the threatening rain, and we employed ourselves talking over the occurrences of the day, and "fighting our battle o'er again,"—whilst the Tambookies and Hottentots, outside, round their fire, were feasting with noisy mirth, and rallying each other on alleged cowardice and fright, when the lion attacked us. The night approaching, the boors recommended a watch being kept up till daylight, fearing the lions might come down. It began however to rain so heavily, that we found it would be impracticable; but we tied our horses close round our huts, kept up a blazing fire, and our servants slept at the doorway with their pieces loaded. In the morning we found all safe.

CHAPTER VIII.

CHUMI VILLAGE.

We were now to separate from our sporting companions:—they were to take a round, and then to return to Muller's;—we were to go to Caffer-Land. One of the Tambookies, a fine active fellow, had engaged to be our guide; however, as he could talk a little Dutch, having once lived in the colony, the boors were anxious to have him with them,—as well to guide them through the country, as to interpret for them in case they fell in with any more natives. We consented to this arrangement on his engaging to find us two lads who should accompany us, and we separated, heartily wishing each other farewell.

Our lads could not set out without their breakfast,—and as most of the Tambookies

were inclined to go home, they were induced to follow the example,—and such a cannibal looking scene I never before beheld. They all sat down naked round the fire, the flesh was produced, and large slices cut off, and stuffed under the cinders; the bones, particularly those with marrow, were only just warmed, and cracked upon a stone.

They use their assagais as a knife; they first cram their mouths full, then cut off the remainder with their assagais;—had they very prominent noses they would stand a chance of occasionally slicing them.

This repast being over, the undressed fragments were gathered up,—that is, the remains of the spring buck, a young gnoo, which they had themselves killed, and the harte-beest, which they were to carry home with them. The pack oxen having been taken on with the hunting party, the greater number carried their burdens upon their heads. One fellow to whose lot had fallen a large fleshy piece, cut a slit through the centre, sufficient to admit his head, and thus conveniently carried it rest-

ing on his shoulders. This was the only disgusting scene we witnessed;—and then it must be remembered that they were hunters, and from home, and were obliged like ourselves to manage as well as they could.

About seven o'clock we bade adieu to our fertile little valley. Dark clouds still hung upon the mountains, and the country had already assumed a greener hue from the heavy rains that fell in the night.

Our guides had engaged to take us in sight of *Makomo's* kraal, but positively declined going to it. We thought at first that they were afraid of this little depredator, who is a son of king *Gaika's*, but we found that the Tambookies do not very readily mix amongst the southern Caffers,—particularly the young people.

Our plan was, if we found ourselves benighted, to sleep at his kraal, for although he has had several attacks from the troops, we did not hesitate to place confidence in his hospitality.—Our wish was however to make one day of it to the missionary establishment, at the

Chumi; but the way was an unusual one, and quite unknown to all we could enquire of. We were cautioned, upon no consideration whatever, to think of sleeping out, as the lions in these quarters were of the fiercest kind; but we were advised, in the event of its being absolutely unavoidable, to choose the side of a hill clear of bush, kindle a blazing fire, tie the horses close to us, and alternately keep watch.

We were now retracing part of the way that we had come the preceding day, not quite so eager or inclined to have another tallyho, and indeed we now only mustered our common fowling pieces. A ratel, the destroyer of bees' nests, crossed our path; the Tambookie dogs soon overtook it, and kept it at bay, until the assagais put an end to it. Its stench when killed, was intolerable, far exceeding that of the pole cat.

As we were now so near the scene of our late action, we could not resist riding up to see the *skeleton* of our gallant enemy, for such we guessed must be his state, as some dozens of

vultures were standing round, and no doubt had been there all night, for we observed several hovering in the air a few minutes after the lion had been killed: and such we found to be the case, for what the Tambookie half starved dogs had in vain attempted to accomplish, these gluttons had successfully finished; every bone was picked clean;—not a tendon or a sinew, tough as they were, remained. Yesterday he reigned unrivalled, monarch of the plain! proudly conscious of his own superior strength, although opposed by numbers.

"To his bold charge the savage turns alone,
"He murmurs fury with a hollow groan,
"He grins, he foams, he rolls his eyes around,
"Lashed by his tail, his heaving sides resound,—
"He calls up all his rage, he grinds his teeth,
"Resolved on vengeance, or resolved on death."

We continued our route, re-crossing the Klip Fontein, and proceeded to the left, amongst the mountains, leaving our late breakfast place to the right. Our progress was of course slow, in order that our guides might keep pace with us. Turning suddenly into a little valley, covered with mimosas, we were agreeably surprised with a sight of some calves, which our guides

told us belonged to a Tambookie kraal, that we had been previously informed we were to pass. We came upon the huts before they saw us, or the dogs barked, but there was no appearance of alarm. We retired under the shade of a tree, and unsaddled, and were quickly followed by a group of women and children, who seated themselves in a row close to us; the men came by degrees, and seated themselves separately.

As we had hitherto fasted, we were not long in asking for milk, and for the same reason eagerly swallowed it, notwithstanding that it had become almost butter from the closeness of the weather. Having given them some beads for this, we were assailed generally for more, but we replied that we had no more left.

Whilst they were conversing with our interpreter, we amused ourselves in noticing the children. One little babe, about a twelvemonth old, very readily allowed me to take it in my arms, and it was soon observable how gratifying this attention was to the fathers equally as to the mothers. An interesting little girl, about four years old attached herself to us, and played

a thousand little tricks to engage our attention: one of the party gave her a sixpence,—she looked at it attentively for some time, and then returned it to him, speaking quick, and putting her little hand across her throat. The interpreter explained to us that she meant to say it was very wicked to cut off the man's head,—alluding to the impression of the king's head only being on the coin. Attention to the children is the readiest way to ingratiate yourself with the savage.

One jolly dame furnished an additional proof of the nutriment of a milk diet, for they seldom slaughter cattle, except on great occasions. She was bulky, but not unwieldy, and withal a merry rattling creature. Several little boys came running down to see us,—and whether it was out of fun, or whether they had left their employment, she called out loudly to them, pointing to us, and frequently using Chaca's name, which made them run off hastily, with fear depictured in their countenances, whilst she was enjoying their fright with a loud horse-laugh. The boys however soon returned.

Just as we were mounting, one of the men told our interpreter, that neither of our guides could show the way to Makomo's kraal. We then offered him some beads if he would accompany us. He expressed his consent, provided we gave him the beads first; this we refused, and our interpreter sharply reprimanded him for demanding it, but he continued as firm as we were, and off we went without him.

We reflected afterwards that as we had only a little while before declared that we had no more beads left, so the man was in some degree warranted in demanding the previous payment of his hire.

In a few hours we had cause to regret that we had not complied with his demand.—Our poor lads had, it would appear, taken great pains to inform themselves of the path, and we proceeded for some miles correctly:—in fact there was no other way, for we had winded along a very narrow valley or opening between stupendous barren hills, from which there seemed no possibility of escaping but by scrambling to the summit. But the path, which had

been getting fainter every step, became at last no longer visible, and our guides who had for some time shown some symptoms of distrust, now quietly sat themselves down, telling us we had only to continue along the valley, and we should in time get out of it, but that they would walk no further.

Pointing to the S. E. they told us the kraal lay in that direction, whilst we had been going for some time about W. As the mountain appeared to be rather more accessible at this point, we proposed that our guides should climb it with us, and if they could then show us the kraal from the top, (which they said they could), we would consent to pay them, that they might return. This was agreed to, and we immediately began to ascend out of this dreary region. In about an hour we reached the summit, and had one of the most unbounded prospects we had yet seen in Africa.

The Winterberg mountain formed one of the grandest features in the scene,—but before we had power to express our admiration of the surrounding objects, and before our guides

could point out the kraal, if it ever was in view, we were enveloped in a thick cloud, attended with moisture, and for some time we thought we should not be able to get on. We were however high enough to be entirely out of the reach of lions, but there was no wood to make a fire, and it was getting extremely cold. We had nothing to eat, and there was no chance of seeing any game to get a shot to procure any thing. At length we discovered a path, but it turned out to be merely a track of wild beasts, and only led to some rocks, but it brought us a little way down, and as the mist cleared away, we found a track less precipitous; before however we could drag our horses after us to the bottom, we were very nearly shot through.

We were well aware that our route ought to be S. E. but there was not the smallest vestige of path, wood, or water, in that direction,—all appeared a mass of dreary barren mountains, utterly destitute of vegetation.

The evening was fast closing, and therefore shelter in any shape, was most earnestly to be desired. We made it known to our guides, that

Makomo's kraal was no longer our object, and, that they must show us some habitation belonging to their own people. Pointing towards the West, they said there must be some people in that direction, but the spot they could not tell. No time was to be lost, and off we set in search. Winding through scenes more wild and dreary as we journeyed on, we at length reached a brook, and here observed tracks of cattle; this encouraged us to proceed, and three miles further we saw some cows.

The clouds at this moment began to separate, and we had a fine view of the setting sun directly in front of us; and consequently it proved that we had completely got out of our destined route,—but shelter for the night was now our principal object. We followed the cows until we came to an avenue of mimosas growing very tall and luxuriant from their sheltered situation. Our road continued for another mile through a valley bounded on either side by verdant hills, where huts appeared, pitched on a most beautiful spot, just at the opening between the hills, with a most extensive valley in front.

The captain was immediately sent for, and he came rapidly towards us with his assagai under his karosse, which he deposited in a hut before he spoke to us. We requested a hut and some milk; this request seemed to be submitted *pro formâ*, to an old man who accompanied him, and it was soon cheerfully assented to. Our horses, fagged, as well as ourselves, with the loitering manner in which we had travelled this day, were again obliged to be tied up at night after grazing for two hours on a slender herbage.

When we had taken our seats in our hut, we had the usual levee, and the same enquiries about us were made to our interpreter, and he was obliged to go through the old story of our coming from a great way off in order to kill the lion, and then to see them.—To the latter they remarked that they had heard the white men came to see the other Caffers often, and they wondered none ever came to visit them; and they seemed very much pleased when we told them that we should give a good account of our visit, and so induce others to follow the example.

There was a great number of cattle at this kraal, which, as well as the others we had passed, were only grazing places, and all under the control of a chief called Tzatzoe, a namesake of our interpreter, and whose own kraal we were to pass next morning. The captain here is a relation of his, his name Odash, a fat merry little fellow. As we arrived at milking time, we begged for some fresh milk before it was put in the bag to get curdled, in which latter state they always use it: this suggested to us the idea of having a hot supper by warming it in one of their earthen pots, which they make fire proof; we then recollected we had a small cake of chocolate with us, and this we scraped into the boiling milk, and made a very hearty meal. Having paid the wearied lads who accompanied us, and dismissed our levee, we stretched ourselves on the floor, and awoke the next morning as much refreshed as if we had lain on down.

We had scarcely moved in the morning before our friend Odash was with us, and he whispered that if we *did mean* to give him any thing, it would be better to give it then, before the rest came down, or we should be well teased

if they saw the beads. The sight of the lavender colored beads (those most in fashion), pleased him, and when we asked for a guide, he told us his own son should go, if we would give him six strings; this we agreed to. Not intending originally to extend our route among the Tambookies, as we had now done, we only took with us one pound of these beads, which cost about twenty shillings: however, we found that quantity sufficient for our purpose, and we were likewise considered very liberal.

Whilst we were preparing to start, all our things created a good deal of curiosity. Our guns, portmanteaus, saddle bags, &c. all underwent inspection, and they were not a little surprised when I took up the horse's foot and shewed them the iron shoe.

The women and children walked by the side of our horses for a little distance, all in the merriest mood, cracking their jokes, many of which were no doubt at our expence,—but all behaving with the utmost propriety; few of them had ever seen horses, and when mine snorted, all the children ran, from right to left, to

the great amusement of their mothers, and when I called them back, they made signs that they feared the horse would eat them.

Our guide had engaged to take us to the next Tambookie kraal, from whence we were to obtain another guide. He led us along a tolerably beaten path, winding amongst mountains covered with grass, apparently of the sour kind. For six or seven miles the whole country presented an uninteresting sameness. We perceived that we were gradually ascending, and in an hour we were so high as to be enveloped in the morning mist; and in this way we proceeded for a few miles, perfectly unable to enjoy any prospect. Our road lay evidently on a ridge of mountain. Looking downwards we could see through the mist that it was not so dense below, and that the sun was shining. Here our guide stopped, and pointing perpendicularly down, said the kraal was below. We were at first very doubtful of the truth of his assertion, and forced him on a little further; but as he appeared to be very certain of it, we paid him. The path de-

scended very abruptly, and our horses could scarcely keep their feet as we led them along.

At length we began to see around us, and to find we were on a ridge with a precipice on either side, and along which most certainly never horse went before. We saw tracks of pack bullocks, so we were satisfied; and bush now became visible—a sight which we had not had for the last two days, with the exception of a few scattered mimosas.

The sun blazed out again in unclouded glory; and with a little more difficulty we got through some bush, and arrived at the banks of a fine running stream, along which grew numerous and stately yellow-wood trees.

We proceeded through this beautiful valley, rich and fertile, encompassed with lofty mountains, decorated with shrubbery; and the late rains, joined to the natural fertility and moisture of the soil, gave to the whole a most luxuriant appearance.

Under a fine hanging wood were erected

about a dozen huts, which we rode up to, and were soon greeted by their lively and interesting inmates. Having conversed for a short time, they informed us that this was the commencement of the kraal more immediately under Tzatzoe. As we wished to see him, they told us he was gone on a visit to Makomo; and we further learned that it would be considerably out of our way to visit Makomo's kraal, as it lay too much to the right. This was a disappointment to us. We therefore abandoned all thoughts of going there, and hired a guide for the Chumi direct. The women and children followed us as usual, and their numbers increased as we proceeded down the valley, for at every turn of the road through this well watered place, huts appeared both on our right and left, and continued for a distance of three or four miles.

We were highly delighted with their gardens and corn fields. They were numerous, and the first we had seen. They have not learned the benefits of irrigation, but in order to get the moisture they grub up the small bush with considerable labour, which they burn, the ashes

serving for their manure. All this is principally the work of the women. Their corn is a sort of millet, and grows like the Indian corn. They have a small kind of French bean, pumpkins, and a coarse kind of water melon. The number of inhabitants must amount to several hundreds, and the cattle to some thousands.

The ride through this beautiful valley was one of the most interesting and picturesque that imagination can conceive, and it was also a cheering sight, from viewing the evident capabilities it possessed, of considerable further improvement by irrigation and culture. The country we had hitherto travelled through, seemed to have already arrived at its *ultimatum*, forbidding the expectation that art could ever overcome its natural deficiences. Indeed some parts may be said to have retrograded, and even to furnish a conclusion, that in a time not far distant they may become nothing better than a desolate waste.

As we travelled along with our active and talkative guide, whom we discovered to be a *Kosa*, we arrived at one of the streams which

form the Kat river. Here we met some of Tzatzoe's people, who told us that the chief's residence was at the source of this stream, but that he was not yet returned from his visit.

This seems to be the boundary line between the Tambookies and Amakosæ, at least of the country which the latter have agreed that the Tambookies should for the present inhabit. When they will think of returning to their own country, or whether they ever will or not, remains to be seen; for we heard that Vosani, the principal chief of the Tambookies, had expressed his disapprobation of the precipitancy with which Tzatzoe had retired, without waiting the event of the battle which Vosani's advanced Tambookies had fought with the marauders, and in which the latter were defeated and driven back.

After we had passed this stream a mile further on our road, and whilst we were winding through bushes, we came abruptly upon a party of about a dozen Amakosa Caffers. At their head was a fine intrepid looking fellow, dressed in a superior manner to the rest, having his

karosse ornamented with a border of tiger skin. We conversed for a few minutes, shook hands, and parted. Our guide informed us that the party were going to a wedding, and that the chief's name was Katey, well known as a *rain-maker*, as the profession is called. When a great drought takes place, these impostors are requested by the people to procure them rain. This they pretend to set about with a great deal of magical incantation; but in the end the eyes of the people are not opened—the only difference is this, that if rain soon follows, presents are given them, but if not, no further notice is taken, except that they are requested to continue their exertions.

They are a very noble looking set of men; but still we thought them not equal to the Tambookies. We remarked that they did not appear to have that mildness and openness of countenance which so generally distinguished the latter tribe. This might have been fancy, or it may be attributed to the continual warfare and annoyance, till lately existing between them and the colonists, which gives their naturally fine countenances, an expression of suspicion

and cunning. Several of the young men in the party had their tufted hair well plaistered with red clay, and their bodies tinged with it. Their appearance, and their manner of walking, some with their karosses on one arm, others with it negligently hanging over the shoulders, brought to our recollection the pictures of the ancient Britons; and some of the Tambookies had such regular European countenances, full eyes and projecting noses, that, with the exception of colour, they might well furnish models for a Caractacus.

When we got about three miles from a hill, to which we were very gradually ascending, our guide assured us that the cattle path we were on would take us to the desired point. He received his beads and returned. We were now enabled to make a little more expedition, and soon arrived at the height, passing several small Caffer huts on our right and left, and a number of very fine cattle.

Here we were gratified with a very magnificent prospect, and we unsaddled for the purpose of enjoying it, and also to give our famished

horses an opportunity of feeding on some luxuriant grass, in the shelter of several lofty spreading trees, singularly growing on the very summit of the hill. In the little valley below us stood the Chumi village, with its verdant fields and fertile gardens; to our right appeared the chain of the Graham's Town hills, about eighty miles distant; directly to our left, were a range of very lofty mountains, out of which the river Chumi rises, and near which Gaika now resides. The intermediate country was champaign and well interspersed with bush.

With the assistance of our interpreter, who was here quite at home, we could trace the windings of the Keiskamma, and the relative situation of the different chiefs whose names were already, from report, quite familiar to us. Having loitered a considerable time, to enjoy this highly interesting view, we led our horses through the wood, down a most abrupt and rocky descent for a short distance, and in half an hour we arrived at the Chumi village, where we were received by Mr. and Mrs. Brownlee, to whom we were known, with a most cheerful welcome; and soon sat down to a regular re-

past,—a luxury which, after so many days of roughing, was no small treat.

The next day, Sunday, proved rainy, to the great joy of the inhabitants; and it was hoped, from its appearance, that it was a general rain, and that our parched-up friends on the Bavian's river would be benefited by it.

We attended the chapel, where about thirty Caffers of both sexes met. The congregation was reduced to this small number, in consequence of a great many families being absent with their cattle, seeking sustenance for them wherever it could be found,—the pastures in the neighbourhood being much burnt up as well as overstocked.

Mr. Brownlee commenced the service by reading chapters of the bible in Dutch. A Caffer, who sat next to him, interpreted in the Amakosa language, sentence after sentence. The congregation were subsequently questioned as to their understanding of different passages, and their replies were likewise interpreted,—Mr. Brownlee having sufficient knowledge of the language to judge whether or not the

questions were distinctly put, or the replies properly interpreted. They sung several hymns, some of which were adapted to native tunes. In singing they are inferior to the Hottentots, not possessing that natural harmony and simplicity of voice. Amongst the most regular attendants morning and evening, was a venerable grey-headed old man, perfectly blind, who was led about by his grand-daughter. He appeared to be particularly attentive to the service. Diseases of the eyes we afterwards observed were very common amongst all ages.

Two fine English youths were also present, who we were informed were chosen from the settlement in Albany to be educated at this institution, with the more particular view of early acquiring the Caffer language, and thereby becoming, in time, useful interpreters; a measure very properly adopted by government, as the present interpreters are low fellows, and are at this moment not without suspicion of acting a double part.

The Chumi establishment was planted by government about six years ago, with a view

of furnishing religious instruction to the Caffers, as well as that of having an agent directly in intercourse with Gaika, and Mr. Brownlee was appointed to superintend it. He very soon built a temporary chapel, and a house for himself, and laid out the plan of a little street, on each side of which the Caffers have built themselves houses, consisting of two or more rooms, to which are attached gardens, very strongly fenced round. Subsequently to this, the Glasgow Missionary Society sent out Mr. Thomson and Mr. Bennie, and then Mr. Ross. They were recommended to join Mr. Brownlee in the first instance. Mr. Thomson immediately built himself a house, and resides there; but Mr. Bennie and Mr. Ross have commenced another institution about ten miles distant.

This establishment, however, has not been followed up with proper spirit. The missionaries stand much in need of funds for the repairs of the present chapel; and, indeed, they require a more permanent one. Books are also very much wanted for the establishment of a school. The missionaries receive only seventy-five pounds sterling per annum; the same bare

pittance indeed which the different societies allow their ministers.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist with regard to the Hottentot institutions within the boundaries of the colony, there certainly can be but one opinion with regard to the benefits which must eventually result from the labours of the missionaries amongst an uncivilized and distinct people, such as the Caffers, and the immediate happy effects which must follow from the education of their youth, and the introduction amongst them of the most useful arts of life.

It will, perhaps, be the best return that can be made for former ill-usage; for from every account that we have been able to collect, they really appear to be a nation "more sinned against than sinning."

Mr. Brownlee has for some time past felt, that he would have greater room for useful exertion if he was to resign his situation under government; and he told us, that he was now hourly expecting permission to do so; when he will

immediately proceed to the Buffalo River, near the residence of the chief Tzatzoe, whose son, our interpreter, had offers made him to join Mr. Brownlee there, as a missionary mechanic, and Mr. B. then meant to unite himself to the society of which Dr. Philip is the representative in the Cape colony.

The following morning we walked out to take a survey of the place. It very much resembles Somerset in situation, and is the same description of country. The Caha farm, and the Tambookie valley before described, derive all their advantages from the same cause—that of being situated at the base of a mountain, from whence flow streams of the finest water. The rivulets from the woody kloofs are here collected, and made to run down on each side of the street, watering the gardens at pleasure.

The industry displayed in this as well as in the fields, and which was principally the work of the women,* is highly praiseworthy, and they

* The occupations of the men are—tending the cattle, milking the cows, making their leather mantles, weapons, or ornaments, training their pack oxen, fencing the corn fields, and attending the chief on his excursions, or when he holds his courts of law, hunting parties, &c.

seemed likely to receive the reward of their labours, for the Indian corn in the gardens was so luxuriant as almost to hide the front of the houses. They had also been encouraged to plant fruit trees of almost every description; and had this season proved a favorable one, there would have been ample returns of peaches and figs, for the trees were looking very healthy and vigorous. Few introductions could prove more acceptable, particularly to these people, who are remarkably fond of the tasteless wild fruits of their country.*

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* The following little poetical sketch, from the pen of a friend, will, perhaps, be considered an agreeable addition to the descriptions I have given of the pastoral hamlets of the Caffers:

The warlike *Kosa** still doth hold
The fields his fathers gained of old;
With club and spear, in jocund ranks,
Still hunts the elk† by Chumi's banks:
By Keisi's‡ meads his herds are lowing;
On Debè's§ slopes his gardens glowing,—
Where laughing maids at sunset roam,
To bear the juicy melons home:

* A Caffer of the Amakosa or frontier tribe, of which Gaika and Hinza are the principal chiefs.

† The animal termed the elk or eland by the African colonists, is the *Antilope Oreas*. It is probably the largest species of the antelope tribe, being equal in size and weight to an ordinary ox.

‡ The Keiskamma river.

§ A branch of the Keiskamma river.

Mr. Brownlee's garden presented a scene of rich luxuriance. The superior care bestowed on it had brought almost every thing to perfection, with the exception only of the orange; but this likewise shewed every symptom of bearing fruit in another season. Grapes were in abundance, but the other fruits had suffered from a late frost.

We observed here, for the first time, an ever-

And striplings from Kalumna's wood,*
Bring wild grapes and the pigeons' brood:
And herdsmen shout from rock to rock;
And through the glen the hamlets smoke;
And children gambol round the kraal,†
Waiting their sires at evening fall;
And matrons sweep the cabin floor,
And spread the mat beside the door;
And with dry faggots wake the flame,
To dress the wearied huntsman's game.

Thus, after many a bloody feud,
The free-born Caffer, unsubdued,
Tells to his sons his youthful tales,
By peaceful Chumi's fertile vales.

* The Kalumna is a river running through the territories of the chief Congo. A Wesleyan missionary village has recently been established on its banks.

† The word *kraal* originally signifies, in the Dutch language, a bead or necklace, but it is now generally used in South Africa to denote a fold for cattle—also a village or encampment of any of the native tribes, and sometimes the tribe or horde itself.

green mulberry, which Mr. Brownlee justly remarked might prove of consequence in the rearing of the silk worm. The leaf and fruit were much smaller than the deciduous kind, but might be improved by grafting and budding, both which experiments Mr. Brownlee had just successfully accomplished. The English hop had also lately been planted, and promised extremely well.

We were shown a plant, a species of *solanum*, the root of which was described to us as a deadly poison, and when thrown into the water would affect the largest animal, even the elephant should he drink of it, occasioning a drowsiness, which would remain for a considerable time. It has some of the properties of the American *cassada*, for, when boiled and prepared, the natives eat it.

Mr. Thomson, who had been at Graham's Town, arrived this morning, bringing newspapers with him, and to Mr. Brownlee his long-wished for permission to resign. We were introduced; and it was highly gratifying to hear him express himself equally devoted to the cause he had embraced, and to the ultimate

civilization of the despised, and it may be almost said, persecuted Caffer.

The establishment of the fairs at Fort Willshire, was a subject on which the missionaries conversed with very great pleasure and satisfaction, as presenting the most effective means of extending the benefits of civilization, and opening the eyes of every person to the infinite importance of maintaining a pacific demeanour towards such immediate neighbours. They were anxious to obtain some information relative to the sale of Caffer produce, in order that they might instruct the people accordingly; and they were desirous of making them adopt another mode of preparing their hides and gums, which they had no doubt ultimately to succeed in, and thereby obtain for them a better price by rendering them more valuable. The growth of such articles by the Caffers, as might be profitable on account of their dense population and consequent cheapness of labour, was another topic of conversation:—amongst the number the cotton plant was talked of, the seed of which they were very anxious to procure.

CHAPTER IX.

KING GAIKA.

We now began to make our preparations for departure, our horses being completely recruited, and able to perform their duty;—having been left out each night, without danger from wild animals. It was our intention to have visited king Gaika; but, on enquiry, we learned that he was gone to a wedding at the chief Botma's. This chief and *his Majesty* had very lately a serious rencounter, in which some lives were lost; and where one of Gaika's principal men seemed rather to hesitate which party he should join. This merry making was therefore to be considered in the light of a perfect reconciliation.

This information altered our route, and we resolved to wait till the evening, and then visit

Botma's kraal. Mr. Brownlee resolved to accompany us, in order to obtain leave from Gaika to settle on the Buffalo River; he claiming as king, or principal chief, a paramount right to the whole country.

About two hours before sunset we were on horseback. The road lay through a country more arid, as soon as it had lost the influence of the mountain streams; but from the recent rains the grass was springing up, and looked verdant. The soil seemed admirably well adapted for sheep and goats; and they would be a valuable acquisition to the people, for small kraals would then kill just sufficient for their consumption, as it might be wanted, instead of the present mode of inviting each other alternately to the slaughter of a bullock, in order that the whole may be consumed before it spoils.

We drank tea with Mr. Ross and Mr. Bennie, the Scotch missionaries before mentioned; they had built a comfortable house, and had already an excellent garden; the situation upon a flat looked rather more European than the other establishment. Several Caffers had imme-

diately joined them,—built their huts close to them, and were cultivating gardens. They very kindly sent a guide with us who could also speak Dutch, and who engaged to take us by the shortest path.

As the moon shone with more than common brilliancy, unobscured by a single cloud, we rode till about midnight, when we observed a fire blazing on a little hill, which we rode up to, and discovered it to be a cattle kraal. The inhabitants had only arrived there that evening; they were wandering about with their cattle from place to place, and were a part of the chief Enno's people.—The fire now blazed full upon the countenances of the men, some of whom were remarkably ill-looking, and this together with the hour of night,—the deep gloom of the place,—the moon being totally hid from us by the surrounding bush,—roused for the first time some sensations of distrust; for joined to this we were detained with idle questions, and they would not answer our request to let us remain for the night, but kept handling and casting a wistful look at the buttons on our jackets.

The captain however at length arrived, and, on the promise of payment, moved all his family into one hut, and gave us the other, sitting down beside us. Our servants espied some dried meat in the roof,—the first thing of the kind we had seen, and they soon obtained leave to take it; the smell from the cooking of this on the cinders, took away all power of sleep.

Tzatzoe entered into conversation with the captain, on the subject of the knowledge he had gained from the missionaries, willing to display his acquirements, or perhaps with the more laudable motive of diffusing important information, as he considered himself bound to do. The subject he chose was the cause of original sin, and Adam and Eve,—which was occasionally interpreted to us. The Caffer captain was politely listening, and nodding assent, until the mention of the apple, when he eagerly enquired what fruit it was, and on what tree it grew. On the mention however of the consequences that resulted from Eve's longing to eat the fruit,—he very coolly, (tired perhaps with what he could not understand) got up,

observing that *his* wife was longing for buttons and beads, and so left us.

We were off very early in the morning, and in about three hours arrived at Botma's kraal, or rather at some advanced huts belonging to it, where we were told that Gaika had gone off the preceding night towards the Keiskamma, with the intention of being at Fort Willshire fair. We therefore crossed the country in that direction, and came to another kraal, where we unsaddled. Whilst we were enjoying our milk, and some bread, which we had brought with us, we heard that Gaika was not above a mile distant. We therefore soon proceeded, and approached four or five huts, about which a number of people were assembled, and seated in a circle. We were very unceremoniously about to enter, when an attendant came towards us, and gently moving his hand to us to go round, led us to the place that Gaika had retired to on our approach, and where he was standing to give us audience, under a little bush, in order to obtain as much shade as the place would afford from a scorching sun.

He received us with a perfectly easy and pleasing, although rather an indifferent air. His age we knew must be above fifty, but he appeared about twenty years younger. He is tall and athletic, and his limbs of the most perfect symmetry, but he is now getting rather large. As soon as he learnt that our only object was to pay our court to him, he beckoned to two of his favorite queens to come forward, who were then finishing their toilette under an adjoining mimosa; they came towards us free and unembarrassed,—particularly one whose name was Tatè, being the lady who seemed to have him most under bondage. She held out her hand with considerable grace, and her walk was perfectly courtly; her head was uncovered, having just come from under the operation of the hairdresser, who had well clotted it with red clay, and her whole face, neck, and arms were rouged over with the same material, delicately put on with a piece of supple skin. An impartial observer could not but acknowledge that there was no mighty difference between this custom, and the powder, pomatum, and rouge of Europe.

Tatè is tall and well made, and not so much

of the *enbonpoint* as the generality of the women.—She displayed art and cunning, and seemed altogether well qualified to shine in courts.—She was now preparing for the fair, and whilst we were talking, an attendant brought up the cap, or rather bonnet, which she put on; it was made of leather or skin with the hair off, and a profusion of beads on the raised crown, sewed close together.

The Tambookies have a more becoming head-dress, made of the same materials, but with a broad band which goes round the forehead, and gives it a more dressy and turban-like appearance.

Their mantle was a robe of antelope or otter skins, rendered perfectly supple, with the hair outermost, made fine and shining like silk, and reaching from the neck to the ancle. It has no particular ornament in front, but behind there are three rows of buttons,—the centre composed of round buttons, and the two outer rows, of flat; these are placed some distance from each other. On the right side, but hanging behind, they have a very small land tortoise shell, in which they keep a perfume. They wear a

a profusion of beads round the neck, and sometimes a dozen brass rings on their arms.

The ladies were continually giving pretty broad hints on the subject of a present of beads, but we did not think proper to comply, leaving it until the eve of our departure. We were particularly anxious to get rid of them; not so much on account of their importunity, as from hearing that the assemblage on the other side, was a court of justice.

Leaving Mr. Brownlee to make his arrangements with Gaika, relative to his intended removal to the Buffalo River, we eagerly hastened to the court. One of Gaika's brothers had taken his place, as judge, when the former retired to give us audience. He was standing on a little hillock;—in front of him was the prisoner seated on the ground,—around on either side were the different prosecutors,—who, as they belonged to three different kraals, sat in as many groups, in each of which there appeared only one regular spokesman,—although, occasionally another would speak, to explain, as it were, what the other had perhaps stated ob-

scurely. The crime was the common one, that of stealing cattle;—the number stolen from the three kraals amounted to eight.

The prisoner had for some time denied the charge, but after much arguing, and finding the proofs too strong, had just before we entered, confessed the crime; and the debate at this moment was whether the full penalty of returning ten for one, should be inflicted or not. The judge held forth with great volubility, and when he had finished, retired to a party who were regaling themselves with a beef steak. To him succeeded a counsellor, who spoke a few words, intimating that he should report the proceedings to Gaika.

He returned in a very short time, and came immediately up to the party we were standing nearest to, who seemed to be the most vociferous, and the most unbending. He endeavoured to prevail on them to take pity on the thief, alleging that the penalty would be his total ruin. To this it was objected that he had given them a great deal of trouble,—that when taxed with the theft and the slaughter, he had

imposed on them by producing other hides, and they finally craved the full penalty of the law. The counsellor said with a smile, that he found he could make no impression, and he should proceed in his duty by again reporting to Gaika. On his return he waved a wand which he held in his hand, in the most graceful manner, and in an instant silence was produced, and every head stretched out with listening ear to catch every word that he should utter.

The scene was highly interesting and impressive, and the painter who would wish to represent a truly Roman character, would do well to study these living masterpieces of nature, instead of the marble images of antiquity.

The counsellor seemed to be between forty and fifty; above six feet high, stout made, but thin; his head was bare, his robe hung loose, reaching down to the ancle, in which his left arm was folded, and his right arm and shoulder uncovered. He looked more like the hero of antiquity than ever Kemble did in his famed Coriolanus, and his action was more beautiful, because more natural and unstudied. His deci-

sion was, that the prisoner should pay eighty head for the eight he had stolen, and that he should be kept in the custody of the prosecutors until the cattle were delivered.

Upon this the whole party arose, put on their karosses, (for many had sat naked,) took up their bundles of assagais, and walked off in perfect silence. The whole was conducted with the utmost decorum.

By this time it was necessary to depart. When we joined Mr. Brownlee, he told us that Gaika had put many difficulties in the way of giving assent to his request, and had raised many frivolous objections, as he was wont to do in such cases, with a view of manifesting his authority, which is thought by some to be rather on the wane, and also with the expectation of increasing the present expected on such occasions; but that at length he had given his consent to Mr. Brownlee's removal.

We presented our beads to the ladies and to Gaika; the former appeared very much pleased, but His Majesty received them with a careless

look,—viewing them only as so much tribute due.

The whole court were now in motion, for Fort Willshire, as well as ourselves, but we loitered in order to see the whole arrangements. They were setting off as they got ready.—The ladies of honour and the bed-chamber, were conveying undressed pieces of beef on their heads, the remains of the feast, &c.—Gaika was putting on his European dress;—an attendant was holding his things;—and now all the kingly appearance of Gaika gradually vanished. His trowsers were old and coarse,—his cloak an old blanket, ragged and shabby, and his white hat turning up on all sides. His manner was indolent, and might be interpreted as significant of his being overwhelmed with his regal duties; but Gaika is a sensualist, and was probably only thinking of the brandy he should get at the fair. The change was disgusting, and we could no longer view the savage king with satisfaction.

We now separated from our worthy friend Mr. Brownlee, and pursued our journey. We

could not make much speed, as the weather was intensely hot. Gaika and his two queens soon after overtook us, riding furiously; their horses were not very gaily caparisoned, having only a loose piece of cow's hide for their saddles.

Fort Willshire soon appeared in view, lying in a valley on the banks of the Keiskamma, which river we had previously to cross. It is easily fordable, although much deeper than any of the other rivers so far from the sea. A company of the 49th we knew were stationed here; and having some little knowledge of the officer then commanding, Lieut. D. L.—, we soon found that it was quite sufficient to insure from him a hospitable reception, as well as from Lieuts. M. and A., then in the barracks.

Whilst we were at dinner, the conversation naturally turned on the character and conduct of the Caffers with whom they had been so long in constant intercourse, and it was with very great satisfaction that we heard them express in warm terms their high opinion of them in general. They had tried them in va-

rious ways, had mixed much with them in Caffer land, and had been present at many of their feasts and weddings, and invariably found that they could place the utmost confidence in their words and promises.

Several little anecdotes were related redounding to their credit. Amongst others they told us, that when at the wedding at Botma's, a few days before, a short time previously to their retiring to the quarters assigned to them for the night, Botma came up to them with the interpreter, and desired him to make known to the officers, that amongst such an immense assemblage, there might be some bad men;—he could answer for his own men, but there were several strangers present, and they might attempt some injury or annoyance,—to prevent which, and that the officers might feel certain that they should sleep in quiet, he should order a guard of some of his most trusty men to watch over their hut during the night.

There did not however appear to be the least necessity for this precaution, for although there were some thousand Caffers present, there was

no other expression of feeling, but that of the utmost hilarity and of satisfaction for the confidence reposed in them by the officers thus mixing amongst them.

We had much cause to regret not having arrived a few days earlier, when we should most probably have met there together. The wedding was a very grand one, and the feast was kept up for several days. Botma's eldest son was the bridegroom, and perhaps to save time and expence, he was married to two ladies on the same morning.

Whilst we were in conversation, we were suddenly interrupted by the entrance *sans cérémonie* of Gaika and Tatè. After they had seated themselves, and each received a glass of wine, the interpreter was desired to say that they came to ask permission for some Caffer friends, who had just arrived, to come into the barracks. This suggested to the officers the idea of getting up a dance, as they had heard us previously regret that we had been disappointed of seeing any thing of the kind during our tour. The interpreter was therefore sent to collect as many as he could.

Gaika had seated himself next to me, and was continually making signs to me to fill his glass, but it was predetermined not to give him more liquor, as he already appeared to have had enough, and because he is extremely troublesome when intoxicated. The interpreter returned in about half an hour, informing us that he had collected on the parade about a dozen women, and about the same number of men.

It was a very beautiful moonlight night. We found the men drawn up in a row naked, each holding a *kirri* in his hand. The women were in a row close behind them, and the soldiers had formed a circle around. On the right stood the master of the ceremonies, who gave his directions in a loud singing tone; at his command the women commenced singing in a low voice, swelling out occasionally as loud as they could bawl. The men, during the first part were acting a dumb show, with now and then a moan; then as the song became louder they took hold of each other's arms, and joining in the tune, they sprung up and down several times with straitened knee, but without moving from the row, putting every muscle into the most

violent action. The women during all this did not move from their position.

When the men had continued this exertion for some time, with the perspiration running off them in streams, the tune was changed;—the master of the ceremonies turned to the right, and led the party on a few paces, the men still acting dumb show, stooping, brandishing their kirries and looking cautiously about as if they were on some expedition. The women kept almost pace with them, shaking in a most singular manner every part of their frame; still singing, they returned in the same way, and then faced again.

Gaika now proposed, that if the officers would give him a large bunch of beads and a soopie, that he would dance. This was refused. Well then, a soopie only? This was agreed to. Off went the blanket, trowsers, and hat, and Gaika was the Caffer king again! In this state of nature he joined the howling, leaping throng, and certainly shewed his muscular frame to advantage. It was curious to see the effect this scene had on two young Caffer men who

had not joined the dance, on account of their feet not having recovered their hardness from late dancing. They looked on for some time, but found it impossible longer to resist. Giving their karosses to a by-stander, they sprung forward and joined the row; and even the master of the ceremonies himself could not resist the temptation, but at last stripped likewise.

The whole was a novel sight, and we were fortunate in having the opportunity of witnessing it; although like the description of dancing of most savages, it was altogether horribly wild. Before it had concluded, several of the Caffer Fair dealers had arrived from Graham's Town, in order to be ready for the next morning. A stop was now put to the dancing, and a glass of wine given to each of the party.

CHAPTER X.

CAFFER FAIR, AND CONCLUSION.

EARLY the next morning the gun was fired for the commencement of the fair, which takes place every Wednesday and Thursday, but as there were not many traders expected, it was postponed till noon, at which time about a thousand Caffers had arrived. This was, however, considered a small assemblage, as there are sometimes double that number. We were very highly amused at the exhilarating scene, and were anxious to see their manner of bartering. We, therefore, took our stand near some Caffers who had two elephants' tusks for sale. They were seated on the ground with the tusks at their feet. The purchaser comes up with his bag of beads, and lays pretty nearly what he intends to give (on the tusks) of different colors, but the largest proportion of lavender color, a

few white, and a few garnet. The sellers hesitate, then demand another bunch, or a knife, or a hatchet, and after a little more bargaining the sale is concluded; and it is said that the Caffers are now become so knowing, and the competition amongst the buyers so great, that the full value is generally obtained by them.

Gaika narrowly watches the sale of ivory, for he claims a tribute upon all sold, for the privilege of passing through his territory. He was leaning over me during the bargaining, and when the sale was concluded, he, with very few words, desired them to spread out what they had obtained, and he then selected what proportion he thought proper, and walked off without making a remark. The sellers looked at each other and smiled, evidently pleased that he had not taken more, although I was told that it might be considered as ten per cent. on the value.

The next most valuable produce were hides, which were purchased in the same way, but Gaika only claims tribute on the ivory. They brought formerly a very considerable quantity

of gum collected from the mimosas, but so little care was taken in selecting the transparent part, that it has became unsaleable in England.

Amongst the minor articles were rush mats and baskets, both very serviceable. One woman had about a pound of tobacco very neatly done up. Others had parrots, monkies, young bucks and birds, and likewise milk, and beef, which are sold to those Caffers who come from a great distance. There was also a kind of cordage for sale, made from the bark of the tree on which grows a very small fig, and which is also common in Albany. All these were disposed of for beads and buttons. It is to be regretted that these ornamental articles are still the most in demand, for they are intrinsically worth nothing to them, further than as they are the medium of traffic with the natives in the interior.

The market however is beginning to be glutted, particularly with beads; and a short time will prove what articles will succeed them in demand. For these baubles (for the knives, hatchets, tinder boxes, &c. are sold in too trifling

a quantity to add much to the amount) the colony has procured from the Caffers exportable commodities of the estimated value of twenty-five thousand pounds. What a change in a short period, instead of shutting them up in their own country; and shooting them in case they showed their heads out of it!

Botma and Enno were the only chiefs at the fair: the former is the stoutest and tallest man amongst them. Old Enno conversed sometime with us, through the interpreter. He was accompanied by one of his sons, who formed one of these rare anomalies which are known to occur amongst the blacks,—being perfectly white, or rather of that sickly complexion which has the appearance of being irritated by exposure to the sun. His hair was auburn, but tufted like the rest, his eyebrows and eyelashes white, and his eyes so weak as hardly to see distinctly by daylight. He was tall and athletic, and to all appearance otherwise in perfect health.

One of the officers who was making a collection of curiosities to take to England with him,

seeing a copper ring of a peculiar form worn by one of the people, purchased it; and on enquiry we found that this man and another belonged to the marauding tribes. We immediately went up to them, and had some conversation. They told us that they had belonged to the party under the command of Pagaleta, whose death they confirmed. They were separated from the tribe in battle, and had ever since lived among the Tambookies, who employed them in carrying things to the fair.

As we were particularly anxious to see every different nation that might be present, the interpreter introduced to us a Mambookie, a very fine young felllow. I made some inquiries of him relative to Chaca, and he repeated the same story that we had previously heard, that he was resolved to kill all before him till he saw the white king, and that he would very soon arrive in the colony.

The Caffers and Tambookies were very much pleased at my calling them by their true titles, and it is strange how they should ever have been miscalled. The name of the former is

Kosa, plural *Amakosa*, and their country *Amakosina*. The latter is *Tymba*, plural *Amatymba*.

There is a peculiar harmony in the language, and it seems scarcely possible to pronounce the words with the softness they give to the pronunciation. They have a cluck in speaking, like the Hottentots, but I do not think it so frequent. This is occasioned by striking the palate with the tongue; and this is the reason that the chief *T'Lhambi's* name is spelt in that manner in order to indicate the pronunciation. Of all the tribes that I have seen, the Tambookies I consider to be the finest race, and the Hottentots the lowest in the scale, although infinitely above what travellers have shamelessly reported of them.

As we were told that the bushy country through which we had to travel was infested with elephants, we took an early dinner, and set off immediately after. We travelled at a rapid pace, anxious to get to some boor's house before sunset. We fortunately fell in with a farmer, returning home with his herd, but

his first appearance was by no means prepossessing. He wore a slouched hat that very nearly covered his face, with a beard unshaven for months. On his shoulder he carried a huge *roer* (or firelock), and dangling by his side an enormous powder flask, made out of a bullock's horn highly polished.

On our asking for a night's shelter, he looked intently, and somewhat sternly at us; but as a matter of course replied, "Yaa, dat's goed." He then inquired where we were from, what was the object of our journey, &c. In order to ingratiate ourselves a little with this singular character, we accompanied him to the kraal, where he safely deposited for the night above two thousand sheep, and two hundred and fifty cattle. He then ushered us into the presence of his vrouw, who received us with great good humour.

We now entered into agreeable conversation; and our host proved, on further acquaintance, to be full of information, and his sentiments, although rude and uncultivated in expression, evinced sound natural good sense. He had a

fine manly figure, with a bright black eye, darting fire and animation, a noble forehead, a black bushy beard; and, altogether, there was so much character in the mind and figure, that I could have fancied him another Brutus.

We were at length interrupted by the entrance of supper, which consisted of a large dish of salted mutton, and another of pumpkins. To the mutton succeeded a bowl of milk, with the choice of mixing with it pumpkin or bread. The cloth being removed, a glass of brandy was filled round. They never mix water with it—inheriting this custom from their "vaders" from Holland.

Whilst the slaves were preparing our blankets, we drew round a few dying embers in an old iron pot in the middle of the room—(chimneys they have none)—and after a few minutes more converse, the couple retired to an inner room. The slaves and Hottentot women retired, and we laid ourselves down without taking off our clothes, for the moon lasting all night, we intended to be off before day-break, in order to reach Graham's Town the following day.

We, however, slept soundly, and were awoke by a slave girl replenishing the fire in the iron pot, and getting coffee ready—a compliment entirely contrary to the general custom. On our return from seeing the horses fed, we were presented with a cup of hot coffee, and were given to understand that breakfast would soon be ready. We, therefore, thought it necessary to pay the compliment in return, of waiting to see the family.

We had now full leisure to take a view of the interior decoration of the mansion. The long room was open to the thatched roof; at one end hung, suspended by a crooked stick, two milk pails with clean shining iron handles and hoops, the upper part also crooked to hang on the beam. Under these stood the churn, and in a corner was a hollowed piece of wood, with a thick club in it, like a pestle and mortar, in which the dough is kneaded in the manner of churning. A vacant peg appeared in the beam, that was soon to be occupied with the carcase of a sheep which a female Hottentot was engaged in skinning in the centre of the apartment.

The remainder of the beams were tastefully festooned with savoury beef sausages, or long stripes of *bill tongue*, that is, narrow slices of beef salted and dried in the sun. In vain you look for hams and bacon. The flesh of swine is in general disliked. Close to a little window with four panes of glass, stood an arm chair, where the vrouw sits the live-long day. Under the window was placed a little table, round which they eat their meals; above this, on several nails, hung little phials of medicine. A few stools and a form constituted the rest of the furniture.

About seven o'clock the family were all assembled, and a cup of coffee was handed to each; but they never take their breakfast till ten o'clock. Our host, as before, entered eagerly into conversation, but as our hostess could talk very little English, we could not converse much with her. She, however, plagued her spouse not a little in requesting a translation of what we were saying, and when he left us to give some necessary orders, we managed to make ourselves understood on the two important subjects of religion and physic. Her infant was ill, *she said;* but it was looking as well as loads

of fat would admit. I prescribed rhubarb, magnesia, &c., but all these remedies she knew, and all would not do. She wanted also to have the child christened by "een regte Predikant," (a regular clergyman), and not a Lutheran, such as the Graham's Town parson. Making the sign of the cross upon the forehead was too much like the *Romans*, she said; she wanted a true Calvinist, and wished the governor would give them one in their district.

We continued our route, and once more entered the Zureveldt, which was very distinguishable from the country we had previously passed through, and arrived at Graham's Town long after sunset. We determined on returning the next day, by the same route, to Algoa Bay; where we found a vessel ready to sail; and, after an absence of eleven weeks, arrived safely at Cape Town, fully impressed with sentiments of gratitude and thankfulness for having escaped the dangers incident to such an expedition.

FINIS.

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